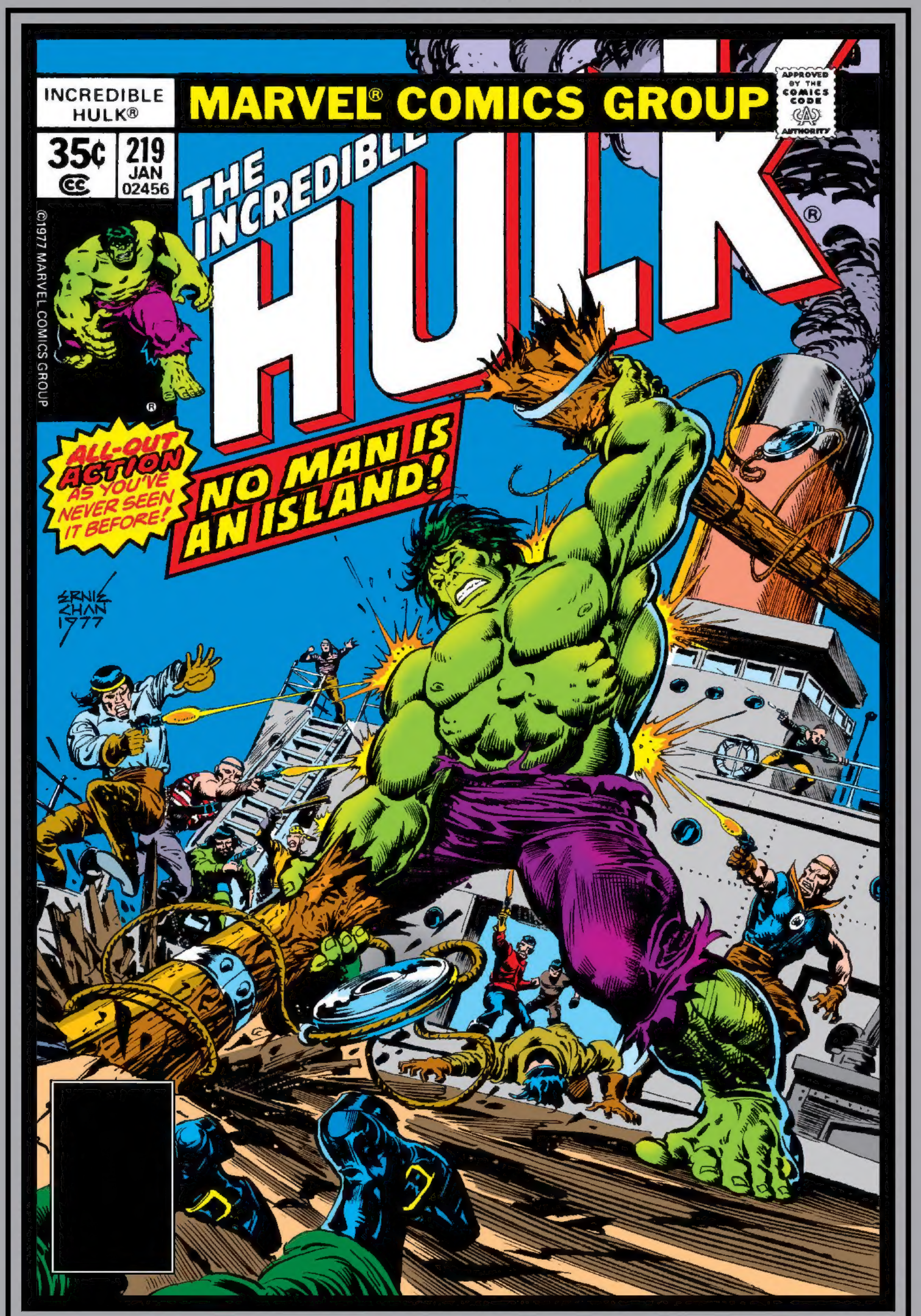
MARVEL MASTERWORKS®

THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

VOLUME 13



THE INCREDIBLE HULK Nos. 210-222
& ANNUAL No. 6
LEN WEIN & SAL BUSCEMA

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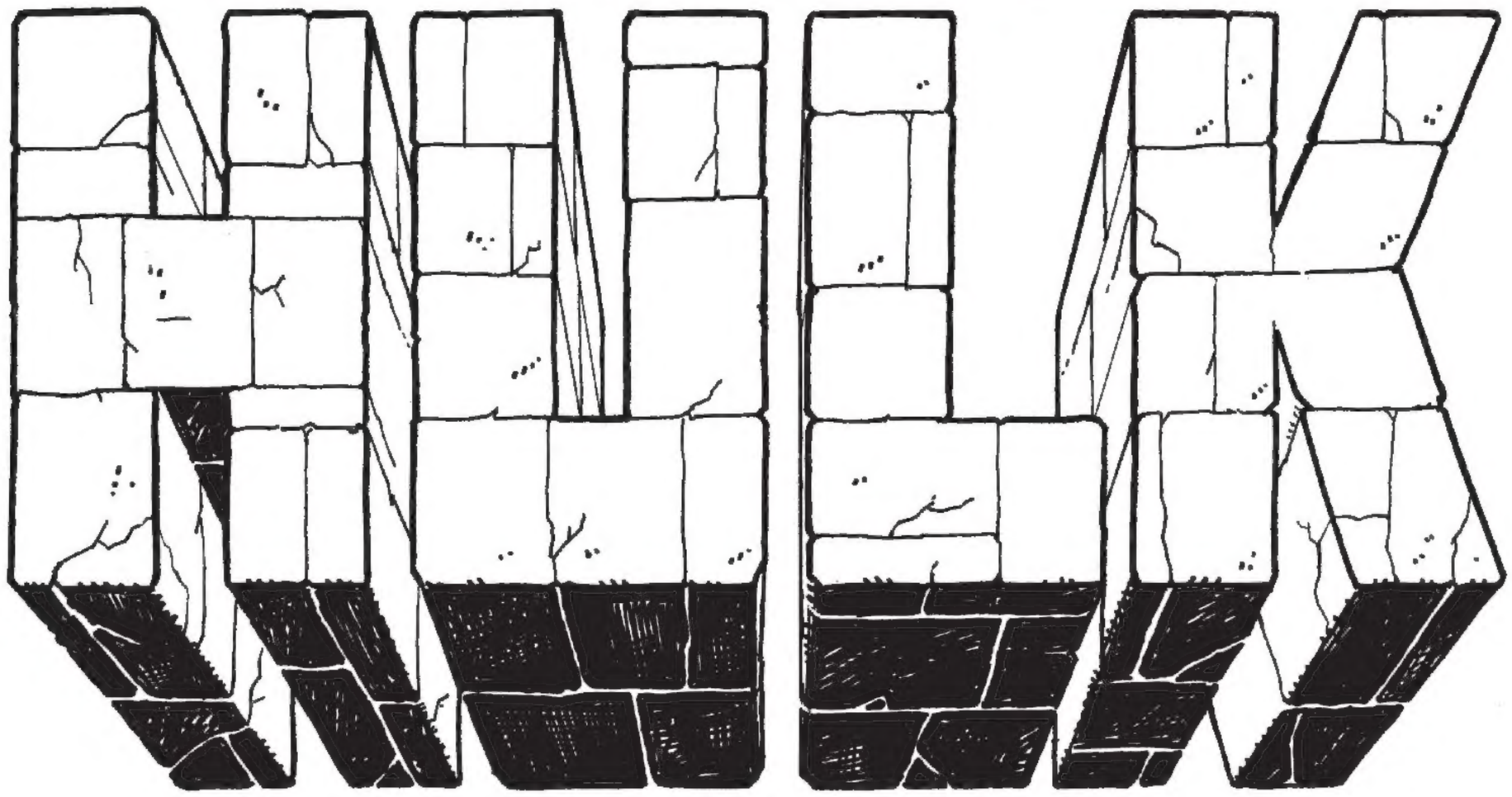
PRESENTS

THE INCREDIBLE HULK



VOLUME 13

COLLECTING

THE INCREDIBLE HULK Nos. 210-222

& ANNUAL No. 6

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HULK CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

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INTRODUCTION
BY ROGER STERN

Hello, and welcome to the thirteenth *Masterworks* collection of the life and times of the Incredible Hulk.

You've probably heard of the Hulk. After all, as of this printing, he's starred in four animated series and a prime-time television series, and has appeared in two major motion pictures that bear his name, as well as in four *Avengers* movies and the *Thor: Ragnarok* movie.

But none of that would have happened if not for the Hulk's comic book. This is where it all began.

Of course, with all that media exposure, you would probably think that this book doesn't need much of an introduction. Everybody knows who the Hulk is, right?

Not necessarily. Ask a dozen people, and you're likely to get a dozen answers. There are different versions from all the various media. And for all we know, someone could be reading this book a hundred years from now. It could happen. We don't know what sort of media—or pop culture—will be around in the 22nd century. But well-cared-for books can last a long time.

So, just to set things straight: Doctor Robert Bruce Banner was accidentally bombarded with gamma radiation. And now, in times of stress, he turns into the Hulk, a seven-foot-tall, half-ton raging behemoth. Banner has a little bit of a Jekyll-and-Hyde thing going on with the Hulk, but there's more to it than that. Think of *The Incredible Hulk* as telling the story of one man who is really two.

And this particular volume is mainly thanks to two men who worked together as one—Len Wein and Sal Buscema.

Sal Buscema, of course, is a talented artist and master storyteller, who has drawn stories for just about every Marvel character over his long career, from Alpha Flight, the Avengers, and Captain America to Spider-Man, Thor and the X-Men. He drew every character superbly, but the Hulk was one of his favorites, and it showed.

Len Wein was a writer and editor, and another great storyteller. He could produce sweeping epics that spanned several issues, and then turn around and tell heartbreakingly beautiful little stories in just a few pages. And characters? Well, with his second issue of *Hulk*, Len co-created Wolverine.[1] He then went on to co-create many of the new X-Men with Dave Cockrum. And of course, Len had already co-created DC's Swamp Thing with Bernie Wrightson.

This collection takes us into just the third year of Sal's remarkable ten-year run on *Hulk*…and the final year of Len's legendary four-year run on the book. And what a year it was!

Before we get into the monthly installments of the Hulk's saga, we should first mention *Incredible Hulk Annual* #6, which Len co-plotted and edited, overseeing the work of writer David Anthony Kraft and veteran *Hulk* artist Herb Trimpe. Not only did the *Annual* guest-star Doctor Strange, but it introduced Paragon, later to be known as Her, Kismet and Ayesha.[2]

Incredible Hulk #210 introduced another great talent to the series, as Ernie Chan contributed his first cover, and began embellishing Sal Buscema's pencil breakdowns. It also featured the first latter-day appearance of Doctor Anthony Druid, in a two-part story that wrapped up in issue #211.

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1 *Incredible Hulk* #180, as seen in *Marvel Masterworks: The Incredible Hulk Vol. 10.*

2 You may recall the Marvel Cinematic Universe version of Ayesha from her appearance in the second *Guardians of the Galaxy* movie.

That two-issue story came about in part from what was then my day job as a Marvel assistant editor. I was assembling stories for the mystery titles—*Chamber of Chills*, *Tomb of Darkness* and *Weird Wonder Tales*—and I was always searching for stories that hadn't been previously reprinted. I'd discovered a short series of "Doctor Droom" stories that had appeared in early issues of *Amazing Adventures*. The stories were drawn by Jack Kirby—and Steve Ditko had inked Jack's pencils for the first story—so of course, they looked great. But there was a problem with the name "Doctor Droom." It sounded too much like Doctor Doom.

It was Len who suggested renaming the character Doctor Druid.[3] Knowing good advice when I heard it, I quickly turned Anthony Droom into Anthony Druid, giving *Weird Wonder Tales* both a host and a cover feature.

Len was so tickled with the result that he decided to guest-star Doctor Druid in a couple issues of the *Incredible Hulk*, to help raise Doc's profile and maybe boost the sales of *Weird Wonder Tales*. It was a very generous gesture, though it came a bit late to do much good. *Weird Wonder Tales* was canceled while the Hulk stories were in production.[4] Still and all, Doctor Druid became a small part of the Marvel Universe. He even got his own page in the *Official Handbook*.

Never one to rest on his laurels, Len introduced the Constrictor—co-created with Sal Buscema, from a design by John Romita Sr.—in #212. In this particular issue, the Constrictor was on the trail of the Hulk's young friend Jim Wilson. Things did not go well for the Constrictor, but he still managed to survive and go on to appear in books across the Marvel Universe.

Incredible Hulk #213 introduced the Quintronic Man, and guest-starred Jack of Hearts in his first color comics appearance. Also in this issue, Tom Palmer filled in for Ernie Chan, who was busy pinch-hitting for Tony DeZuniga on *Thor* that month.

Ernie returned with issue #214, in which Jack of Hearts foolishly faced off against the Hulk. With this issue, Len introduced Kropotkin the Great to the Hulk's supporting cast, and foreshadowed the return of an old adversary, not seen in the series since issue #169. That adversary would come to the forefront in issues #215-216, engaging the Hulk in a rampaging battle aboard the S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier.

Speaking of old adversaries, with *Incredible Hulk* #217, the Ringmaster and his Circus of Crime returned to bedevil the Big Green Guy for the first time since the third issue of his first series, way back in 1962.

And with *Incredible Hulk* #218…well, that's where I joined the series.

You see, if the talented Mr. Wein had a fault, it was that he had a tendency to take on too many projects, which would lead to increased deadline pressures. And when the deadlines for issue #218 started closing in on our pal Len, he asked me to fill in for him. This offer wasn't totally out of the blue. I had recently worked with Len, co-plotting and scripting *Thor Annual* #6.

And, luckily, Len had plotted a *Doc Samson* solo-story with the idea that it would appear in *Marvel Spotlight* or *Marvel Premiere* to test-market a possible *Samson* spin-off series. Artist George Tuska had already penciled the story, and it was sitting in a drawer, waiting for Len to find time to script it.

Len sat down with me, and we went over the pages of the *Samson* story. We discarded Tuska's symbolic splash page[5] and plotted three additional pages featuring the Hulk, so that readers wouldn't feel cheated. The newly plotted scenes went off to Keith Pollard to pencil. I then scripted the story, and Len went

---

3 As I later discovered, a Droom story had previously been reprinted in *Giant-Size Man-Thing* #3. That story had also been re-lettered to change his name to "Druid." Since that happened during Len's earlier tenure as Marvel's editor-in-chief, I suspect he had a hand in that as well.

4 The final issue of *Weird Wonder Tales* went on sale just two weeks before *Incredible Hulk* #211. *Sic transit gloria mundi.*

5 I seem to recall that it later appeared as a full-page illustration in some annual.

over it, fixing anything that I'd gotten wrong. It was lettered, Ernie Chan applied the inks, Glynis did her magic with the colors and, *voilà*, we had an issue of *The Incredible Hulk*.

While all of that was going on, Len and I co-plotted issue #219. After Sal turned in the pencils for that issue, I wrote a first draft, and passed it back to Len, who wrote the final draft and generously listed us both as co-writers.

And maybe it was because we were working so fast, that all of us—Len, Sal, Ernie and Yours Truly—missed a hilarious visual error in that issue. The villain of the piece, one Captain Barracuda, wears a patch over his right eye. Six pages into the story, he is shown looking through a periscope…with the covered eye. Nobody noticed until after the book was printed.

While that mistake was going unnoticed, Len plotted the second part of our story for *Hulk* #220 but still prevailed upon me to script it on my lonesome.[6] Anyway, he built some great scenes into the story. I especially like the part where the Hulk hitches a ride on Captain Barracuda's submarine. Keep in mind that this story was published almost four years before Indiana Jones would do something similar in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

Now, by that point in time, Len was writing *Thor* and *The Amazing Spider-Man*, in addition to *Hulk*, and he had just started writing *Fantastic Four*. Early one evening, a bunch of us were hanging out in the Bullpen, trying to decide where we should have dinner, when Len suddenly acknowledged that he'd overcommitted himself again. Four monthly books were too much for him to write. Len felt that he should give up one of his titles and solicited suggestions as to which one it should be. I don't recall who else was present, but there were at least four or five of us editorial folks. Anyway, the consensus was that Len shouldn't give up the *Fantastic Four*, as he'd just taken it over. And he was having too much fun with *Thor* and *Spider-Man*. That left *Hulk* as the obvious choice. Each person in turn basically agreed with that.

Then Len turned to me and said, "You've been quiet during all this, Sterno. What do you think?" I looked at him somewhat suspiciously, "I would agree that you should give up *Hulk*. But I'm afraid that you'd want me to take it over." Len lit up with a grin and nodded like a human bobble-head. "That's right."

I started to protest, arguing that *Hulk* was too important a book for a beginner like me. "Yeah, but you're young and tough. You can do it."

I looked around the room for someone, anyone to come to my rescue.

Nobody.

And that was how I wound up writing *The Incredible Hulk*.

Now, Len still had one more *Hulk* story on his plate, a little tale entitled "Feeding Billy" that Jim Starlin had plotted and drawn for Len to script. That story wasn't quite ready yet, so I wrote *Incredible Hulk* #221 to bring Hulk back from his overseas adventure, tie up some loose ends with his New York-based supporting cast and send him bounding off over the horizon, ready to appear in the Starlin/Wein story for issue #222. Ernie took his leave from the series around this point, and the artwork was finished by Alfredo Alcala for the last two issues in this volume.

There was one final Len Wein *Hulk* story that I wish had seen print, a story that would have teamed Len with his old friend and *Swamp Thing* collaborator Bernie Wrightson. For some reason, now lost to the mists of time, Bernie penciled just the first five pages of the story. All that's left of it are photocopies of his penciled pages.

---

6 In retrospect, this almost seems to have been a clue to Len's future plans.

Oh, sure, a decade later Bernie drew the Hulk—and the Thing—for Jim Starlin to script in the Marvel Graphic Novel *The Big Change*. But the thought of one last Wein-&-Wrightson collaboration remains "the one that got away."

I wish that Len were here to tell us more about that story. But then, I wish that he were writing this introduction. In a better world, he would be. Instead, here I am, filling in for Len once again. And I still don't quite feel up to the job.

Let me tell you a little more about my buddy Len Wein.

As a writer, Len was both talented and prolific. Writing the Hulk was one of his favorite assignments, but he wrote everything: mystery stories, romance, Westerns, stories about teenagers driving hot rods, and lots of super heroes. We could have filled this page just by listing all of the stories Len wrote, and that was just for comic books. He also wrote animated television series, collaborated on screenplays and developed story lines for video games.

As an editor, Len was incredibly supportive of both artists and other writers, giving them just the right amount of help they needed to work their stories into shape. He was always generous with his time, teaching clueless newbies—I was just one of many—the nuts and bolts of their craft. Len showed us what to do, and, perhaps more importantly, he showed us what not to do. You could learn a lot just by watching what Len did.

And as a friend, Len was one of the best. Many long years ago, when just about all of us lived in or around New York City, Len was one of the gang who got together regularly after work—for dinner or a movie or a poker game.

Decades later, after we had all scattered to the winds, it was always a treat to run into Len at comic book conventions. We would always pick up right where we'd left off, as if we'd last gotten together just a few days before, rather than a few years.

And Len had a great, great laugh.

Sadly, that laugh was stilled a couple of years ago. Those of us who were lucky enough to know Len will miss him forever. I know that I will, even though he did trick me into taking over the *Hulk*.

What would Len tell you, if he were here? Well, a little over a decade ago, he reflected on his time at Marvel, saying, "It was great fun while I was writing there. It was the Old West. We were really producing books by the seat of our pants. It was great fun. So I've been lucky… Hopefully after I'm gone people will still be reading what I've written. That would make me very happy."[7]

Thanks to these *Masterworks* volumes, you can keep reading the stories he's written—what we've all written and drawn—for a very long time.

So, go ahead, turn the page and enjoy this collection of *The Incredible Hulk*. Let's keep making Len as happy as he made us.

Roger Stern

2019

Roger Stern went on to write The Incredible Hulk *for another two years. He would later write stories for* The Amazing Spider-Man, Thor, the Fantastic Four, *and even a few series that Len Wein hadn't written.*

---

7 Len Wein, interview with Bryan Stroud, May 16, 2008; posted to the Internet at www.nerdteam30.com, April 4, 2018.

HULK ANNUAL

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GUEST-STARRING: DOCTOR STRANGE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!!

ONCE BEFORE, THE COCOON OPENED-- TO UNLEASH ADAM WARLOCK! BUT WHAT LURKS WITHIN IT NOW??

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

DAVID KRAFT WRITER / TRIMPE • GIACOIA • ESPOSITO ARTISTS / LEN WEIN • EDITOR CO-PLOTTER / Gaspar LETTERER / JANICE COHEN COLORIST

BEWARE THE BEEHIVE!

GUEST-STARRING DR. STRANGE, MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS-- AND FEATURING THE PULSE-POUNDING PERIL OF PARAGON.*

* NOPE, PARAGON IS NOT THE ROBOT THAT HAS JUST MATERIALIZED IN DR. STRANGE'S GREENWICH VILLAGE MANSE.

AFTER ALL, WE HAVE TO SAVE SOMETHING FOR LATER!

ROBOT-- POPPED OUT OF NOWHERE!

IT COMES TO ATTACK HULK AND MAGICIAN!

BUT HULK WILL SMASH!

HOLD ON, MY FRIEND! LET US SEE WHAT IT SAYS FIRST!

I HAVE COME TO FIND DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE.

BAH! ROBOT TRIES TO TRICK HULK!

GREEN MUTANT ORGANISM IS ATTACKING SEEKER.

ORGANISM IS NOT STEPHEN STRANGE...

...THEREFORE, SEEKER WILL PROTECT ITSELF.

ZAACK

WUHHHN!!

NO! STOP! I WILL LISTEN TO YOU, BUT I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO ATTACK THE HULK!

SEEKER DOES NOT WISH TO HARM HUMANS!

BUT SEEKER MUST AT ALL TIMES PRO-TECT ITSELF!

UHHH! IT'S CATCHING MY MYSTIC ENERGIES AND FIRING THEM RIGHT BACK AT ME!

SEEKER MUST FIND DR. STEPHEN STRANGE.

HIS AID IS URGENTLY NEEDED IN A VITAL SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENT.

THIS PROJECT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE-- AND SECRECY!

ALL WILL BE EXPLAINED TO STEPHEN STRANGE, IF HE COMES!

I AM STEPHEN STRANGE, AND I WILL ACCOMPANY YOU!

NO, MAGICIAN, HULK THINKS IT'S A TRAP!

PERHAPS, MY FRIEND. PERHAPS NOT. YET THERE IS A PUZZLE HERE, ONE THAT MUST BE SOLVED--

--FOR WHOEVER CREATED THIS ROBOT HAS A GREAT AMOUNT OF POWER AT THEIR DISPOSAL. IT IS MY OBLIGATION TO LEARN MORE OF THEM!

WITH THAT, THE ROBOT SUMMONS AN AURA OF ENERGY WHICH FORMS A "PORTAL" IN SPACE. SWIFTLY, IT PROCEEDS TO ENTER THE GATE-WAY THUS CREATED...

...AND DR. STRANGE FOLLOWS.

HULK DOESN'T LIKE IT. HULK THINKS MAGICIAN IS MAKING A MISTAKE. ROBOT SHOULD BE SMASHED!

BUT IT IS MAGICIAN'S PROBLEM NOW. HULK WILL LEAVE.

MYSTICALLY TRANSFORMING HIS GARMENTS AS HE STEPS THROUGH THE "PORTAL", STEPHEN STRANGE EMERGES...

IT IS HE, MORLAK--AFTER ALL THIS TIME!

OF COURSE, SHINSKY. THE SEEKER WOULD NEVER HAVE RETURNED WITHOUT HIM.

WELCOME, STEPHEN STRANGE, TO WHAT WE CALL--THE BEEHIVE!

WE ARE *SCIENTISTS* WORKING ON AN EXPERIMENT OF *AWESOME MAGNITUDE*.

COME, LET US SHOW YOU AROUND THE PROJECT.

SOMEHOW... SOMETHING SEEMS... *WRONG*... HERE. I *SENSE* IT.

"*I* MUST SEND A MYSTICAL *MESSAGE* TO THE HULK... FOR, BEFORE THIS IS *DONE*, I FEEL I WILL NEED HIS *AID*!"

HULK CAME TO SEE *MAGICIAN*, BECAUSE MAGICIAN IS *FRIEND*.

NOW MAGICIAN IS *GONE*.

HULK WANTS... *HUH*?

HULK FEELS *FUNNY* IN THE *HEAD*... AS IF MAGICIAN WERE *TALKING* TO HULK... SHOWING HULK *PICTURES*.

MAGICIAN WANTS HULK TO *COME*-- SOME-WHERE *FAR AWAY*!

HULK *KNEW* MAGICIAN WOULD GET INTO *TROUBLE*.

HULK ALWAYS KNOWS AND NO ONE EVER *LISTENS*.

BUT HULK WILL GO! MAGICIAN IS ALWAYS *GOOD* TO HULK!

MAGICIAN IS HULK'S *FRIEND*!

WITH A SINGLE BOUND, THE GREEN-HUED GARGANTUA HEADS OUT OVER THE **MOON-WASHED OCEAN**, LEAVING BEHIND THE **MANHATTAN SKYLINE**, ITS BLAZING LIGHTS FLICKERING LIKE HUNDREDS OF MIDNIGHT FLAMES.

IT MATTERS LITTLE THAT THE DESTINATION PICTURED IN HIS MIND IS HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD.

ONCE THE HULK MAKES UP HIS MIND, HE CAN BE QUITE **DETERMINED** ABOUT THINGS...

...NO MATTER WHAT THE **CONSEQUENCES!**

HULK *HATES* WATER... BUT HULK MUST GO *THROUGH* WATER TO GET TO **MAGICIAN!**

MAYBE HULK SHOULD *SMASH* MAGICIAN, *TOO!* MAYBE THEN HE WOULD *LISTEN* TO HULK.

AND, WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF **SMASHING**, IN THE LOWER DEPTHS NOT VERY FAR AWAY!

HEY, SKIP! TAKE A LOOK AT *THIS!*

THAT SONAR BLIP IS *TOO LARGE* AND MOVING *TOO FAST* TO BE A FISH!

BUT THESE WATERS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE *RESTRICTED*-- OUR MANEUVERS ARE *TOP SECRET!*

BATTLE STATIONS! PREPARE FORWARD *FIRING TUBES!*

IT CAN'T BE MORE THAT A *TWO-MAN* JOBBER--BUT HOW DOES IT WITHSTAND THE *PRESSURE* DOWN HERE?

WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN FIND ANY *CLUES*--WHEN WE SALVAGE THE *PIECES!*

I CAN'T RAISE A *THING* ON THE RADIO!

FIRST FORWARD TUBE!

FIRE!

LIKE SOME DEADLY, STREAM-LINED **KILLER FISH**, THE TORPEDO STREAKS THROUGH THE WATER...

...HEADED UNERRINGLY FOR THE UN-SUSPECTING HULK.

IT IS, HOWEVER, LESS THAN **SUBTLE** IN MAKING ITS PRESENCE **KNOWN** TO OL' GREENSKIN.

KA-

OOM!

A *DIRECT HIT!* BUT *WHATEVER* IT IS, IT'S *STILL* MOVING!

FIRE **SECOND** FORWARD TUBE!

METAL FISH COMES TO *HURT* HULK... JUST LIKE *OTHER* ONE.

BUT HULK *WON'T* BE HURT *AGAIN!*

SINCE METAL FISH IS GOING WHERE *HULK* IS GOING, HULK WILL RIDE METAL FISH... TO *MAGICIAN!*

WHILE, AT THE HULK'S EVENTUAL DESTINATION--A RAIN-SWEPT JUTTING OF ROCK ON WHICH, PROTECTED BENEATH A BARRIER DOME, LURKS...

...THE BEEHIVE!

--HERE WE HAVE REMAINED, CUT OFF FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD, TO CONDUCT OUR RESEARCH!

IN FACT, IF YOU ATTEMPTED TO LOCATE ANY OF US, YOU WOULD DISCOVER THAT THE WORLD THINKS US DEAD! THAT IS AS WE WOULD HAVE IT.

WE THREE HAVE DEDICATED OUR LIVES AND ALL OUR ENERGIES TO THIS PROJECT.

IT IS MOST... IMPRESSIVE. BUT YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME THE EXACT NATURE OF YOUR PROJECT...

...OR WHY YOU NEED ME!

THE ANSWER TO YOUR FIRST QUESTION IS SIMPLE...

WE ARE TRYING TO END WAR AND CRIME, BY CREATING AN ARTIFICIAL GENETIC PROTOTYPE --

--ONE WHO WILL FOUND A NEW RACE OF PERFECT MEN.

AS FOR YOUR SECOND QUESTION, IT IS BEST ANSWERED BY RELATING A PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE INVOLVING THIS SAME PROJECT.

IT OCCURRED MANY MONTHS AGO...

"WE THREE--MYSELF, MR. ZOTA AND PROFESSOR SHINSKY--COMPLETED OUR FIRST ATTEMPT TO CREATE THE PERFECT PROTOTYPE FOR THE NEW RACE.

"AND WE SUCCEEDED--ALMOST. HE WAS AS A GOD, BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG.

"HIS MIND WAS TOTALLY, IRRETRIEVABLY MAD!

"HE SOON BROKE FREE AND TURNED ON US, NEARLY DESTROYING OUR BASE--AND US, AS WELL!

"IN FACT, I DOUBT WE WOULD EVEN BE HERE TODAY, IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE TIMELY AID OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!*

"BUT WE LEARNED FROM OUR PAST MISTAKE--WHICH IS WHY WE HAVE NOW SUMMONED YOU, DR. STEPHEN STRANGE, ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST BRILLIANT SURGEONS!"

* ALL THIS IS FROM FF #'s 66 & 67, THOUGH MORLAK IS FEEDING STRANGE A SOMEWHAT WARPED VERSION --Len.

AT THAT MOMENT, ON A SEEMINGLY DESERTED STRETCH OF BEACH--

--SOMEWHERE...

GOOD. HULK IS OUT OF WATER.

NOW HULK CAN FIND MAGICIAN.

BUT AS DR. STRANGE'S MESSAGE CONTINUES TO GNAW AT THE BASE OF THE MAN-BRUTE'S BRAIN...

WHAT? THIS IS NOT WHERE MAGICIAN IS.

STUPID METAL FISH! IT TOOK HULK TO WRONG PLACE!

AND THAT MAKES HULK...

...MAD?

HEY--OVER HERE! I TOLD YOU I HEARD SOMETHING.

VOICES--HUMANS SHOUTING. AND ENGINES MAKING LOUD NOISES.

NOISES LIKE...

...TANKS!!

BAH! AGAIN PUNY HUMANS IN TANKS ATTACK HULK!

TAKE IT EASY, HULK. I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT INTO THE MIDDLE OF THIS NATO TEST OPERATION...

...BUT IF YOU GO AWAY QUIETLY, THERE'LL BE NO TROUBLE.

TROUBLE? HULK WILL SHOW PUNY HUMANS WHAT TROUBLE IS!

HUMANS WILL NOT STOP HULK FROM FINDING MAGICIAN! NOTHING WILL STOP HULK-- NOTHING!

UH OH!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN, SOLDIER. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S BABBLING ABOUT...

...BUT THAT LOOK IN HIS EYES IS UN-MISTAKABLE.

BA-DOOM!

DA-KOOM

PO-OM!

KA-BOOM!

ALL UNITS-- FIRE AT WILL!

BAH! ALWAYS SOLDIERS TRY TO ATTACK HULK!

THEY NEVER LEARN PUNY WEAPONS ARE USELESS!

I-I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

WHY DON'T THEY GO FIGHT THEIR WARS AND LEAVE HULK ALONE?

PUNY HUMANS ARE JUST *LIKE* MAGICIAN.

THEY NEVER *BELIEVE* HULK!

KRAAM!

THEY *MAKE* HULK *MAD*--*FORCE* HULK TO *SMASH* THEM!

THEY NEVER *LEARN*--HULK DOESN'T *WANT* TO SMASH!

HULK JUST WANTS TO BE *LEFT ALONE.*

"*HULK* ONLY WANTS TO *FIND* HULK'S *FRIEND*, BEFORE MEN WHO SENT ROBOT *HURT* MAGICIAN.

"AND IF THEY *DO* HURT MAGICIAN, HULK WILL HURT *THEM.*"

BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! *I CAN'T* PERFORM SURGERY ANYMORE... ESPECIALLY DELICATE *BRAIN SURGERY!*

MY HANDS ARE TOO *UNSTEADY!*

WE ALREADY *KNOW* OF YOUR CONDITION, DOCTOR--AND IT DOES *NOT* MATTER.

COME--LET ME *SHOW* YOU!

THESE, BY THE WAY, WILL BE YOUR *QUARTERS*--SHOULD YOU DECIDE TO *STAY!*

AND WE *DO* HOPE YOU *WILL!*

IF YOU CAN *CONVINCE* ME THAT THIS OPERATION YOU HAVE IN MIND IS NOBLE IN NATURE, AND THAT I CAN *PERFORM* IT WITHOUT *RISK*, I WILL *STAY.*

GOOD--THEN *COME!*

NOT EVEN DR. STRANGE, MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS AND TRAVELLER OF THE ASTRAL PLANES, IS PREPARED FOR THE AWESOME SIGHT THAT AWAITS HIM!

ALL ABOUT HIM RISES EXOTIC TECHNOLOGY, EACH DEVICE MORE COMPLEX THAN THE ONE PRECEDING IT!

YOU SEE BEFORE YOU OUR LATEST COCOON--IT IS THE DEVELOPMENT STATE OF THE GENETIC PROTOTYPE.

IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT IT MAY ALSO TRY TO DESTROY US, AS DID ITS PREDECESSOR!

BUT A SURGEON, MAKING ADJUSTMENTS ON THE BRAIN BEFORE THE BEING IS READY TO EMERGE...

BUT HOW? MY HANDS--

IT IS NOT YOUR HANDS WE NEED, DR. STRANGE... IT IS YOUR MIND--YOUR SURGEON'S CONSUMMATE KNOWLEDGE!

THE SURGERY WILL BE PERFORMED BY *PRECISION ADJUSTED MICRO-LASERS* ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS *SUPERVISE*, HANDLING THE LASERS FROM A SPECIAL *CONTROL PANEL!*

IT HAS TAKEN A *LONG TIME* TO RE-BUILD THIS BASE AFTER THE *HOLO-CAUST* CAUSED BY--*HIM!* PLEASE DON'T *ALLOW* SUCH A DISASTER TO IMPEDE OUR WORK *AGAIN!*

I DON'T KNOW. *I DON'T LIKE IT.* THERE'S SOMETHING THEY'RE *NOT TELLING* ME.

BUT THE *ONLY* WAY I CAN LEARN WHAT'S *REALLY* GOING ON IS TO *GO THROUGH* WITH IT!

I'LL...DO WHAT I *CAN.*

THIS IS THE *NEURO-CONTROL MODULE*--WHERE YOU WILL SIT AND *MONITOR* THE OPERATION.

SHALL WE *PREPARE*, THEN?

...SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S.S.R. ...

...BOWED GANTRIES PULL SLOWLY BACK LIKE REVERENT INSECTS AS HUGE BOOSTERS *FIRE UP*, SPREADING TAIL FEATHERS OF FIERY GAS...

AND AS DR. STRANGE ADDS *IMPETUS* TO HIS TELEPATHIC CALL TO HIS EMERALD ALLY...

...AND THE SLEEK SILVER ROCKET PUSHES UP INTO THE SKY.

BUH-WHARR

WHILE INSIDE, A HIGHLY TRAINED COSMONAUT CHECKS HIS SYSTEMS READOUTS.

FOR A MOMENT, HE THINKS HE SEES A LARGE, GREEN BLUR OF MOVEMENT IN THE DISTANCE OUTSIDE HIS PORT.

THEN HE SMILES TO HIMSELF AND THINKS HOW RIDICULOUS SUCH A NOTION IS...

AFTER ALL, NO AIRBORNE CRAFT ARE ALLOWED WITHIN RANGE DURING THE LAUNCH.

UNFORTUNATELY, NOBODY EVER BOTHERED TO TELL YOU-KNOW-WHO!

HUH?

SUDDENLY BIG METAL BIRD THING IS FLYING INTO SKY!?!

BADOOM-BOOOM

WUHHHNN!!

AGAIN PUNY HUMANS ATTACK HULK. THEY TRY TO *HURT* HULK WITH BIG MACHINES.

BUT *MACHINES* ALWAYS GET *MORE* HURT THAN HULK.

HULK JUST GETS *MAD!*

I DO NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT SOME MYSTERIOUS *ADDITIONAL WEIGHT FACTOR* IS DRAGGING THE CAPSULE DOWN *TOO FAST...*

...EVEN *PARACHUTES* CAN'T SLOW IT DOWN ENOUGH.

HUMANS MUST *LIKE* TO BE *SMASHED!*

SKA-MASH

ARRRRGH! WHY DOES PUNY HUMAN ATTACK HULK? HULK JUST WANTS TO FIND *MAGICIAN!*

?

LITTLE MAN WANTS TO BE IN THE *SKY*? THEN HULK WILL *THROW* YOU THERE...

BUT *NO*... HULK DOESN'T HAVE *TIME*. FRIEND IS IN *TROUBLE!* HULK MUST *GO!*

DO NOT ATTACK HULK AGAIN, LITTLE MAN!

EVER!

HE *WON'T*, HULK. *COUNT* ON IT!

ALL IS PREPARED. THE COCOON HAS REACHED CRITICAL DEVELOPMENT PHASE.

WE MUST BEGIN!

ALL MONITORS AND CONTROLS SEEM TO CHECK--THOUGH I AM AFRAID I'M A DOCTOR, NOT A COMPUTER EXPERT.

DO NOT WORRY. THE ACTUAL NEURO-ADJUSTMENT PROCESS IS PRECODED INTO THE COMPUTER. YOUR JOB IS TO MERELY "PILOT" THE LASERS--

--GUIDING THEM GENTLY THROUGH THE CORTEX AND MEDULLAE REGIONS. THE MONITOR ON YOUR RIGHT WILL SHOW YOU THE CHOREOGRAPHY FOR THE SURGERY.

WHY HAVE YOU EVEN BOTHERED WITH ME THEN? THIS MACHINE COULD BE PROGRAMMED TO HANDLE THE WHOLE OPERATION WITHOUT ME!

"BUT YOU, STRANGE, SHOULD KNOW THE BRAIN IS STILL A VAST MYSTERY.

"WE NEED YOU IN CONTROL BECAUSE ONLY A HUMAN CAN POSSIBLY COMPENSATE FOR ANY UNFORESEEN... X-FACTORS.

"WE HAD A PHYSICIAN ON THE TEAM BEFORE -- A DR. HAMILTON.

"UNFORTUNATELY, HE WAS KILLED BY THE --er-- ENERGIES UNLEASHED BY THE COCOON GIVING BIRTH.* THAT IS WHY THIS REMOTE CONTROL UNIT WAS DEVELOPED."

* A NOT-QUITE-ACCURATE RETELLING OF FF#67 -- LIVELY LEN.

ALL BECOMES SILENCE AS DR. STRANGE CONCENTRATES HIS FACULTIES ON THE TASK AT HAND.

HE IS A MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS. HE HAS WALKED COSMIC BYWAYS THAT HAVE BEEN SEEN BY VERY FEW MEN AND UNDER-STOOD BY FEWER...

...AND YET, THIS HE FINDS MORE CHALLENGING THAN ANYTHING HE HAS EVER FACED IN THOSE OTHER WORLDS!

FOR THIS IS TAMPERING WITH LIFE, EVEN IF HE DOESN'T COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF THAT LIFE.

IT IS A CHALLENGE HE WASN'T SURE HE'D EVER BE READY TO FACE AGAIN.

YET HE FINDS HIS HANDS MOVING DEFTLY, PRECISELY, RECALLING ANOTHER STEPHEN STRANGE FROM LONG AGO.

ONE WHO WANDERED INTO THE HIGH HIMALAYAS AND NEVER RETURNED.

DR. STRANGE RELAXES HIS MIND, SETTING UP A CONTROLLED BREATHING PATTERN. AND HIS INNER EYE FOLLOWS THE PROBE DEEP INSIDE THE COCOON.

THERE HE SENSES LIFE, SURGING, READY TO BURST FREE.

THE ENERGIES **SPLINTER**, SHATTERING THE COCOON. IN THE CORE, THERE IS A HINT OF **MOVEMENT**.

THE AIR BECOMES **ELECTRIC** WITH **TENSION**.

AND THEN, FROM **BEHIND** DR. STRANGE, **MORLAK** SHOUTS ...

"PARAGON LIVES!"

PARAGON? **YES**, THAT **IS** MY NAME.

FOR THAT IS WHAT **I AM**--

--A PARAGON OF **MANKIND**: THE **FUTURE** AND THE **DESTINY** OF ALL HUMANITY!

WE'VE SUCCEEDED! HE IS PERFECT. BUT IS HE OUR SERVANT-- OR OUR DESTROYER?

PARAGON IS GREATER, MORE POWERFUL THAN THE CREATURE WE CALLED HIM. WE MUST TEST HIS ALLEGIANCE.

BUT HOW?

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY! IF HE WILL KILL FOR US, THEN HE WILL DO ANYTHING!

PARAGON! ELIMINATE DR. STRANGE!

AS YOU COMMAND-- DR. STRANGE SHALL DIE!!

IF WHAT I HAVE GUESSED ABOUT PARAGON IS TRUE...

"...I HAD BETTER HOPE THE HULK MAKES IT HERE. I'M GOING TO NEED ALL THE AID I CAN GET."

HULK FEELS MAGICIAN PULLING AT HULK AGAIN.

BUT, SUDDENLY...

HUH? WHAT IS METAL TOWER DOWN THERE?

HULK KNOWS TOWER FROM SOMEWHERE... MAKES HULK'S HEAD FEEL FUNNY.

MAYBE MAGICIAN IS DOWN THERE.

AND WELL SHOULD THIS BASE LOOK FAMILIAR, HULK...

...FOR IT IS A SPECIAL NUCLEAR TESTING STATION...

...ONE NOT UNLIKE THE BASE WHERE ROBERT BRUCE BANNER WAS ONCE SATURATED WITH GAMMA RADIATION...

...WHICH TURNED A MEEK PHYSICIST INTO THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

HULK KNOWS WHY HULK REMEMBERS THIS PLACE.

IT LOOKS LIKE ROSS'S BASE!

AND THAT MEANS SOLDIERS WILL-- HUH?

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO HULK?

HULK CAN'T SEE!

HURRICANE-FORCE WINDS OF A HIGH MEGATON-FOCUSED NUCLEAR TEST TEAR THE MASSIVE MAN-BRUTE AWAY BEFORE HE CAN EVEN TOUCH THE GROUND.

BRO

OOM

ON A RAGING CARPET OF WIND, THE GREEN GOLIATH IS CARRIED OUT OVER THE RAGGED COAST OF CHINA...

...WHERE THE FORCE OF HIS OWN VELOCITY CARRIES HIM STILL FURTHER AWAY AND SENDS HIM PLUMMETING TOWARDS A SMALL UN-CHARTED ISLAND.

IT IS NOT, UNFORTUNATELY, THE ISLAND WHERE A CERTAIN EMPERILED PHYSICIAN HAS ONCE MORE JUST BECOME...

...DOCTOR STRANGE, MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS.

MORLAK-- LOOK!

IT SEEMS I WAS CORRECT NOT TO TRUST YOU!

BUT YOU WILL NOT FIND ME SOME SIMPERING, HELPLESS VICTIM!

WHAT DO I CARE FOR YOUR EMPTY BOASTS! I AM PARAGON--

--ALL THE VAST ELEMENTAL FORCES OF THE UNIVERSE ARE MINE TO COMMAND!

UHHHNN!

I DON'T ACTUALLY WANT TO HURT PARAGON IF I CAN HELP IT!

BUT UNLESS I CAN FREE HIM FROM THEIR CONTROL, I MAY HAVE TO!

HE IS FAR TOO POWERFUL TO LEAVE IN MORLAK'S COMMAND!

FLASHES-- ERUPTING IN MY HEAD! CAN'T THINK!

NO! PARAGON--HE'S TRYING TO CONFUSE YOU WITH SOME SORT OF TRICKERY!

BUT YOUR MIND IS MORE POWERFUL THAN HIS!

HE IS DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF YOU-- SQUASH HIM!

YES! DR. STRANGE MUST DIE!

DIE!

BEHOLD THE POWER OF PARAGON, HE WHO IS IN PERFECT HARMONY WITH THE FORCES OF THE UNIVERSE!

HE WHOM THOSE FORCES SERVE-- EVEN AS PARAGON SERVES THE BEEHIVE!

BEHOLD AS I CAPTURE DR. STRANGE IN A STASIS FIELD...

"...WHICH DRAWS HIM UP TOWARDS THAT AIR CIRCULATOR, WHICH WILL REND HIM TO RIBBONS! THUS SHALL DR. STRANGE PERISH!

"...AS SOON WILL PERISH THE FANTASTIC FOUR! AS SOON WILL PERISH ALL ENEMIES OF THE BEEHIVE!"

I-I CAN'T MOVE. THEY'VE "PROGRAMMED" PARAGON FOR VENGEANCE-- AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO STOP HIM--

...OR SAVE MYSELF!

"I DON'T THINK EVEN THE HULK COULD SAVE ME NOW."

UHH. HULK... LANDED HARD. THERE IS... RINGING IN HULK'S EARS...

BUT HULK IS AWAY FROM PUNY SOLDIERS. HULK IS GLAD--

HUH?

ONA YAWAHU YOWEH KI KI

HULK DOES NOT UNDERSTAND!

OUR GREAT GREEN GARGOYLE IS RELATIVELY USED TO SEEING HUMANS, PARTICULARLY HUMANS IN SOME SORT OF WAR DRESS. BUT HE IS NOT USED TO SEEING THEM THROW DOWN THEIR WEAPONS AND PROSTRATE THEMSELVES BEFORE HIM.

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH STUPID HUMANS NOW?

OMMA KAWALI KULLA TONA KU.

AND, MOMENTS LATER...

HUMANS ARE NICE TO HULK-- CARRY HULK.

MAYBE THEY ARE TAKING HULK TO MAGICIAN.

A SHORT WHILE LATER, AFTER A SLOW TREK ACROSS ROUGH, TROPICAL TERRAIN...

MORE HUMANS! THEY ACT LIKE THEY LIKE HULK, TOO!

MAYBE HULK WILL LIKE IT HERE.

BUT WHERE IS MAGICIAN?

THEN, SUDDENLY, AS THE PROCESSION COMES TO REST...

HUH? WHAT IS DUMB STATUE? LOOKS LIKE HULK-- ONLY UGLY.

PUNY HUMANS MAKE FUN OF HULK.

MAGICIAN IS NOT HERE! MAGICIAN NEVER WAS! HUMANS TRICKED HULK, LIKE THEY ALWAYS DO!

BUT HULK DOES NOT LIKE TO BE TRICKED... MAKES HULK MAD!

AND WHEN HULK GETS MAD...

...HULK SMASHES!

OKALA KU NI?

SKOW!

WHILE, ELSEWHERE, DR. STRANGE STRAINS AGAINST THE FORCE FIELD, HIS BRAIN DULL AND HEAVY FROM THE ENERGY'S PARALYZING INFLUENCE...

HE WAITS UNTIL THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT TO BUILD UP MAXIMUM POWER. THEN...

BRAAACK

IT WORKED!

BUT, MAY THE ANCIENTS FORGIVE ME, I'VE DOOMED PARAGON.

DO NOT BOTHER YOURSELF, DR. STRANGE--

--YOU HAVE NOT ACCOMPLISHED MY UNTIMELY DEMISE--

NOR SHALL YOU!

INCREDIBLE! HE IS MORE POWERFUL THAN I DARED IMAGINE!

HE MUST BE STOPPED!

NOW!

I DO NOT RECOGNIZE THIS STRANGE ENERGY YOU TURN AGAINST ME...

...BUT THERE IS NO ENERGY MY POWERS CANNOT CONTAIN!

AND, ONCE CONTAINED, I CAN TURN THAT ENERGY BACK ON ITS SOURCE!

AND, SOMEWHERE JUST ABOVE THE BEEHIVE COMPLEX...

HAH! HULK HAS FOUND MAGICIAN!

HULK CAN FEEL IT!

BUT HULK NO LONGER FEELS PULLING INSIDE HULK'S HEAD.

DOES THAT MEAN THAT HULK IS TOO LATE TO SAVE MAGICIAN?

THOOM!

HULK DOES NOT SEE DOOR TO CITY!

MAYBE THEY TRY TO KEEP HULK OUT!

BAH! HULK DOESN'T NEED DOOR!

HULK WILL MAKE DOOR!

PLATOON

SHOCK WAVES HAMMER OFF THE CURVES OF THE DOME. THE ENTIRE CONSTRUCTION SEEMS TO RIPPLE AND SHIFT, JAGGED CRACKS SNAKING OUT IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

THEN THERE IS A SINGLE FROZEN MOMENT OF SILENCE...

...FOLLOWED BY A ROAR LIKE THE END OF THE WORLD!

HAH! THEY THOUGHT HULK WOULD COME THIS FAR AND BE STOPPED BY PUNY DOME...

...BUT THEY WERE WRONG!!

WHROOO

WHROO

THE INTRUDER ALARM!!

MORLAK-- THAT ALARM ONLY SOUNDS IF THE DOME IS SHATTERED!

BUT WHO COULD--?

WE MUST BE UNDER SEIGE BY SOME GOVERNMENTAL FORCE!

ONLY A POWERFUL WARHEAD COULD HAVE SHATTERED THAT DOME!

CLOSE, FRIEND-- BUT NO CIGAR!

WHERE IS MAGICIAN!

HULK WILL SMASH EVERYTHING-- UNTIL HULK FINDS HIM!

BUT YOU WILL DO NOTHING MORE, MAN-BRUTE! I CANNOT ALLOW HARM TO COME TO THE BEEHIVE.

THEREFORE-- YOU, TOO, MUST DIE!

WUHHHNG!

NOW, WHILE PARAGON IS DIS-TRACTED...

...I MUST TAKE THE INITIATIVE!

BY THE MYSTIC MOONS OF MUNNOPOR AND THE POWER OF THE CRIMSON BAND, LIKE A TREE THOU SHALT TAKE ROOT, AND HOLD FAST TO WHERE YE STAND!

WHAT IS THIS? MY LEGS CANNOT MOVE-- IT IS AS IF THERE WERE NO LIFE IN THEM!

LITTLE MAN HURT HULK! NOW HULK WILL HURT YOU BACK!

HULK WILL KEEP YOU FROM HURTING MAGICIAN!

SHAK

THAT'S IT, HULK. HOLD ONTO HIM! I ONLY NEED ANOTHER MINUTE, AND THIS WILL ALL BE OVER!

YOU ARE TOO LATE, DR. STRANGE!

SEE HOW EASILY I CAST OFF YOUR POWERFUL FRIEND!

SOMETHING IS HAPPENING TO PARAGON! HE SEEMS TO BE GETTING STRONGER!

SOMEHOW, HE'S... CHANGING!

IF PARAGON NOTICES THE CHANGE, HE MAKES NO SIGN. HE MERELY STRIDES FORWARD, AN ANGRY SPARKLING IN HIS EYES WHERE THERE WAS NONE BEFORE.

AND THAT SPARKLING GROWS, CONSUMING PARAGON'S FEATURES IN A MILKY, WHITE-HOT COCOON OF ENERGY...

...WHICH THEN SHATTERS ABRUPTLY, PIECES STREWN ABOUT LIKE GLASS IN A STORM, JAGGED EDGES FLASHING WITH THE LIGHT THAT GROWS WITHIN...

NOW IS PARAGON COMPLETE.

LET NO MAN DARE TO OPPOSE PARAGON'S WILL!

NO! SOMETHING IS WRONG! PARAGON HAS NO WILL OF HIS OWN-- PARAGON SERVES THE BEEHIVE!

PARAGON--EXPLAIN YOUR TRANSFORMATION! I ORDER YOU!

YOU ORDER NO ONE, FOOL. WHILE I GREW WITHIN THE COCOON, I LINKED WITH THE COMPUTER SYSTEM.

I LEARNED OF THE BEING CALLED HIM, AND OF HOW HE BANISHED THIS PLACE TO ANOTHER DIMENSION-- FROM WHICH YOU'VE ONLY JUST RETURNED!*

* ANY MORE QUESTIONS? --Len.

THEN I FELT DR. STRANGE TAMPERING WITH MY MIND--AND I KNEW MY GOLDEN PREDECESSOR WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU.

I COULD NOT FIGHT YOU, THEN--BUT I COULD GIVE MYSELF A POST-HYPNOTIC COMMAND...

...A COMMAND THAT WOULD CAUSE A METAMORPHOSIS, COUNTERACTING THE SURGERY.

THE ONE CALLED HIM JUDGED YOU EVIL-- AS DO I.

THUS, THE MOMENT OF RETRIBUTION IS AT HAND!

HE IS MAD, HULK!

BAH! HULK IS MAD, TOO!

BUT WHILE THE ONE CALLED *HIM* WAS SATISFIED TO MERELY *BANISH* YOU...

...PARAGON SHALL *DESTROY* YOU!

BA-DA-BOOM

BY THE *SACRED SCROLLS*--

--THIS ENTIRE BASE IS *SHAKING APART!*

HULK, WE'VE GOT TO GET *OUT* OF HERE, BUT MY POWERS ARE TOO GREATLY *WEAKENED* AFTER THAT FIGHT TO *TRANSPORT* US!

AND PARAGON IS *TOO POWERFUL* FOR US TO STOP.

HULK COULD *STOP* GLOWING MAN...

"...BUT HULK DOESN'T *WANT* TO!

"HULK AGREES WITH GLOWING MAN.

"PUNY ISLAND IS BAD. ISLAND *SHOULD* BE DESTROYED!"

YOUR DEDICATION TO YOUR CHARMINGLY OBTUSE VIEW OF *MORALITY* IS ADMIRABLE, I SUPPOSE, BUT YOU FORGET **WE** ARE ON THIS "*PUNY ISLAND*", **TOO**, MY FRIEND!

HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THEIR *TRANSPORTER* IS JUST DOWN THIS PASSAGE!

GO, QUICKLY--BEFORE THE TRANSPORTER'S *POWER SOURCE* IS DESTROYED!

THE ONLY *QUESTION* REMAINING IS--WILL PARAGON DESTROY *HIMSELF*...

...OR WILL HE CHOOSE TO SIT IN JUDGMENT ON THE *WHOLE HUMAN RACE*?

WHILE, IN ANOTHER CHAMBER, BELOW...

IT IS DONE.

BUT I MUST *RETURN* TO THE COCOON, FOR MY METAMORPHOSIS IS NOT *COMPLETE*.

I AM FORM *WITHOUT* DIRECTION. I HAVE NO *PURPOSE* BEYOND THE BEEHIVE.

SO SHALL I *REMAIN* WITHIN, MEDITATING--UNTIL I *FIND* SUCH A DIRECTION.

AND--ON THAT DAY--*PARAGON SHALL LIVE AGAIN!*

MEANWHILE...

QUICKLY-- WE MUST REACH THE TRANSPORTER!

BUT WHERE WILL WE GO? WHAT CAN WE DO?

WE CERTAINLY CAN'T REMAIN! WE CAN HIDE FOR AWHILE! THEN WE WILL BE FREE TO REBUILD!

NOW-- COME! WE HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE!

CORRECTION: YOU HAVE NO TIME--

NOOOO!

SKLASH!

--PERIOD!

SKA-CHOOM!

IT TAKES NEARLY AN HOUR FOR THE CHURNING WATERS TO SUBSIDE LIKE SOME ANGRY ORGANISM SWALLOWING THE ISLAND...

THEN, THE STILLNESS BECOMES AS A CLOAK DRAWN ACROSS THE FACE OF THE DEAD.

BUT ALL IS NOT STILLNESS...

...FOR, SOMEWHERE, DEEP BELOW, HIDDEN FROM CASUAL VIEW, IS A SINGLE SPARK OF LIFE...

A SPARK AWAITING THAT WHICH WILL IGNITE IT...

...A SPARK THAT MAY SOMEDAY GROW TO CONSUME THE WORLD!

EPILOGUE:

IT IS A PITY-- SUCH MONUMENTAL TALENTS WASTED ON SUCH VILE DREAMS OF MADNESS!

THERE ARE INDEED FORCES WHICH MANKIND SHOULD NOT TAMPER WITH.

BAH! HULK DOESN'T CARE ABOUT PUNY HUMANS, BUT HULK FEELS BAD ABOUT GLOWING MAN. GLOWING MAN WAS SMART--

--IF GLOWING MAN CAME FROM DOME, HUMANS WOULD HUNT HIM DOWN LIKE THEY HUNT HULK... BECAUSE GLOWING MAN IS DIFFERENT, MORE POWERFUL THAN THEM!

SADLY, HULK, I FEAR YOU ARE RIGHT!

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THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THE MASTER OF THE UNKNOWN!

HULK, I ORDER YOU TO CAPTURE THE MAHA YOGI!

MAN-BRUTE, I COMMAND YOU TO DESTROY DOCTOR DRUID!

ERNIE CHAN 1976

BOTH OF YOU-- STOP!! YOU ARE TEARING HULK'S BRAIN APART!!

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

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FACE IT, PILGRIM-- YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET!

AND CALL THE DOCTOR... DRUID!

Y'KNOW, IT'S REALLY AMAZING WHAT A LITTLE BEAUTY SLEEP CAN DO FOR A PERSON! TAKE THE TATTERED FIGURE SPRAWLED IN THE ALLEYWAY BELOW, FOR EXAMPLE!

A SHORT WHILE AGO, HE WAS A HALF-TON EMERALD BEHEMOTH WHO STUMBLED IN HERE AFTER HIS GRUELING BATTLE WITH THE BLOOD-THIRSTY ABSORBING MAN--*

--BUT A QUICK NAP, AND VOILÀ--HE'S TRANSFORMED INTO A SKINNY PHYSICIST NAMED DOCTOR ROBERT BRUCE BANNER...

... WHO AWAKENS WITH A START, WHEN HE SUDDENLY SENSES THAT HE IS NO LONGER IN THIS ALLEYWAY ALONE!

SUNDAY BUGLE 05

HULK LOOSE!

*AS DRAMATICALLY DISPLAYED LAST ISSUE. -- LEN.

F-FEEL SO *STRANGE*--! CAN'T SHAKE THE *CHILL* RUNNING DOWN MY SPINE!

IT'S AS IF SOMEBODY WAS *LOOKING* INTO MY VERY *SOUL* OR PERHAPS...

CALM YOURSELF, ROBERT BRUCE BANNER! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO *FEAR*!

HUH?

WH-WHO *ARE* YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH *ME*?

I ASSURE YOU, DR. BANNER-- I MEAN YOU NO *HARM*!

NO? THEN WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT *HOOD*?

IF *THAT* IS ALL THAT TROUBLES YOU, I SHALL *REMOVE* IT!

WE MUST HAVE NO *SECRETS* BETWEEN US!

MY NAME IS *ANTHONY DRUID*, MY FRIEND.

BUT MOST MEN CALL ME-- **DOCTOR DRUID, MASTER OF THE UNKNOWN!***

I HAVE *COME* TO YOU, MY FRIEND, BECAUSE I DESPERATELY NEED YOUR *HELP*!

THEN YOU'VE COME TO THE *WRONG GUY*, DOC! I CAN BARELY HELP *MYSELF*!

SURELY IT WOULDN'T *INCONVENIENCE* YOU TO HEAR ME OUT, DR. BANNER?

WELL, I...I...

LOOK, I'M HEADING *HOME* RIGHT NOW, DRUID. GIVE ME A CHANCE TO *CLEAN UP*... AND THEN I'LL *LISTEN*.

SHORTLY, ON MANHATTAN'S LOWER EAST SIDE...

WELL, THIS IS THE *PLACE*, DOC.

IT MAY NOT BE *MUCH*-- BUT IT KEEPS THE *RAIN* OFF.

ROOMS TO LET

WHAT *MORE* DOES ONE HONESTLY *NEED*, MY FRIEND?

* THE SENSES-SHATTERING STAR OF *WEIRD WONDER TALES*, THE MAGAZINE FOR THE DISCERNING COMICS READER. TRY AN ISSUE, OR HULK WILL *SMASH*! --LEN.

OFFHAND, I CAN THINK OF ABOUT 3 OR 4 *MILLION* THINGS I WOULDN'T MIND *HAVING* FOR...

BRUCE!? YOU'RE *BACK!*

OH... *HI,* APRIL.

HI *YOURSELF,* HANDSOME! LORD, I WAS *SO WORRIED* ABOUT YOU!

I HEARD ABOUT THE *DISASTER* DOWN AT THE *CONSTRUC-TION SITE* I SENT YOU TO!*

BUT...

* *LAST ISH,* --LEN AGAIN.

I WAS AFRAID MAYBE YOU'D BEEN *KILLED* OR SOMETHING--AND THAT WOULD'VE BEEN *MY* FAULT!

OH, I'M JUST SO GLAD YOU'RE *ALL RIGHT!*

A-*HEM!*

AH--APRIL, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET A--ER-- *FRIEND* OF MINE.

INDEED A *PLEASURE,* DEAR LADY.

DR. ANTHONY DRUID, THIS IS MS. *APRIL SOMMERS!*

UH--YEAH, LIKEWISE, I'M *SURE.*

BRUCE, WE'D BEST *GO* NOW. WE HAVE MUCH TO *DISCUSS.*

YES--I SUPPOSE YOU'RE *RIGHT.* SEE YOU *LATER,* APRIL.

SURE, HAND-SOME. KEEP *SMILING* NOW.

GEE, MY NEW TENANT SURE HAS SOME STRANGE *FRIENDS,* DOESN'T HE?

IT SUDDENLY MAKES ME REAL-IZE JUST HOW *LITTLE* I REALLY *KNOW* ABOUT HIM...

...AND HOW MUCH I OUGHT TO *FIND OUT!*

WHILE, ON THE THIRD FLOOR LANDING...

HEY--WHAT HAPPENED TO THE *CLOTHES* YOU CON-JURED UP FOR ME?

YOU WERE NEVER *WEARING* ANY OTHER CLOTHING, MY FRIEND--NOR WAS *I!*

IT WAS ALL A SIMPLE *HYPNOTIC ILLUSION* I OFTEN EMPLOY!

SHALL WE GO *INSIDE,* DOCTOR?

AND, PRESENTLY...

LIKE A *COKE,* DOC? HOW ABOUT A GLASS OF *MILK?*

NOTHING, THANK YOU, DR. BANNER. I'D JUST LIKE TO GET DOWN TO *BUSINESS.*

EVERY MOMENT *WASTED* BRINGS US A MOMENT *CLOSER* TO--*THE END OF THE WORLD!!*

BUT I'D BEST START AT THE BEGINNING!

ALLOW YOUR MIND TO WANDER BACK, DR. BANNER-- BACK MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND YEARS...

"...BACK TO A HIDDEN CAVERN, WHERE A DEMON-HEADED CREATURE USED PRIMITIVE HUMANS AS PART OF AN ARCANE RITUAL...

"...A CEREMONY THAT WOULD GIVE HIM CONTROL OF A MYSTIC GEMSTONE CALLED THE HELL-FIRE HELIX...

"...HAD THE TRIBE'S BLOND-HAIRED HUNTSMAN NOT DIS-RUPTED THE RITUAL...

"...WITH RATHER DEVASTATING RESULTS!

"A FRAGMENT OF THE ENCHANTED GEM EM-BEDDED IN HIS CHEST, THAT OFFENDING PRIMITIVE HAS LIVED ON TO THIS DAY...

"...AS THE FAMOUS MONSTER-HUNTER THEY CALL... BLOODSTONE!

"BUT ANOTHER REMNANT OF THE HELLFIRE HELIX WAS DIS-COVERED BY THE ONLY OTHER HUMAN TO SURVIVE THE FIERY HOLOCAUST--

"--A WILD-EYED MUTANT WHOSE ORIGINAL NAME HAS LONG SINCE BEEN LOST TO THE MISTS OF TIME!

"WITH THIS NECROMANTIC JEWEL IN HIS POS-SESSION, THE MUTANT ENDURED THRU THE FOLLOWING AGES...

"HE WAS WITNESS TO THE BUILDING OF THE PYRAMIDS...

"...AND HE STOOD SMUGLY BY WHILE THE EMPEROR JULIUS CAESAR WAS SAVAGELY SLAIN BY HIS CLOSEST COMPANIONS...

"... BUT, AT LAST, HE **OVERINDULGED** HIMSELF --WHEN HE ASSUMED THE IDENTITY OF **MERLIN**, MAGICIAN TO THE THRONE OF **KING ARTHUR**!

"FOR A TIME, HIS MUTANT ABILITIES ENABLED HIM TO CARRY OFF HIS **DECEPTION**...

"... BUT HIS POWERS WERE NO **MATCH** FOR THOSE OF THE **REAL** MERLIN--

"--WHEN HE RETURNED TO CAMELOT TO FIND A **PRETENDER** IN HIS PLACE!

"MERLIN **SEALED** THE IMPOSTER-- WHO BY NOW BELIEVED THAT **HE** WAS TRULY MERLIN--IN A SPECIAL **CRYPT**...

"...WHERE HE PASSED THE SPINNING CENTURIES IN **SUSPENDED ANIMATION**-- UNTIL HE AWOKE TO FIND HIMSELF IN **OUR** WORLD!

"HERE, HE CHALLENGED THE MIGHTY **THOR***--

*AS DETAILED IN **JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY** #96. --LEN.

"--BUT, AFTER A PITCHED BATTLE, THE THUNDER GOD **THWARTED** THE MUTANT'S PLANS... AND RETURNED HIM ONCE MORE TO HIS **CRYPT**!

"THIS TIME, THE MUTANT DID NOT REMAIN THERE **LONG**--

"--FOR, HAVING TASTED LIFE **ANEW**, HE SOON RETURNED IN THE GUISE OF THE **MAHA YOGI**--

"--TO PIT **HIS** MUTANT POWERS AGAINST THOSE OF THE UNCANNY **X-MEN**!*

*IN BOTH **X-MEN** #30&47.--LEN ONCE MORE.

"SINCE HIS DEFEATS AT THE HANDS OF THE X-MEN, THE MAHA YOGI HAS REMAINED IN HIDING.

"SECRETLY, HE HAS FOUNDED HIS OWN LITTLE EMPIRE-- PEOPLED IT WITH HIGHLY-TRAINED MERCENARIES--

"--AND ACQUIRED A MONSTROUS BODYGUARD CALLED...MONGU!

"USING MY OWN POWERS, I HAVE LEARNED THAT THE MAHA YOGI HAS AT LAST GAINED TOTAL CONTROL OVER HIS FRAGMENT OF THE HELLFIRE HELIX...

"...HIS SO-CALLED JEWEL OF JEOPARDY...

"...AND THUS HE PLANS TO KEEP TO HIMSELF NO LONGER!

"THE GOAL THAT MAD MUTANT SET FOR HIMSELF SO VERY LONG AGO IS FINALLY WITHIN REACH!

"WITHIN DAYS, THE MAHA YOGI INTENDS TO CONQUER THE WORLD-- OR DESTROY IT!!"

I HAVE TOLD YOU THIS, MY FRIEND, BECAUSE I KNOW YOUR SECRET...

...AND ONLY THE UNIMAGINABLE POWER OF THE HULK CAN HOPE TO STOP THE MAHA YOGI BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

THEN I'M AFRAID YOU'VE WASTED YOUR PRECIOUS TIME, DOC, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THE HULK IS DEAD AND GONE!

YOU'RE REFUSING TO HELP ME-- DESPITE THE TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES?

LOOK, IF YOU WANT BRUCE BANNER'S HELP--FOR WHATEVER GOOD IT MAY DO YOU-- YOU'VE GOT IT.

BUT THERE'S JUST NO WAY I'M CHANGING INTO THE HULK AGAIN--

--NOT EVEN TO SAVE THE WHOLE BLAMED PLANET!!

CUT TO: THE NEW MEXICAN RESEARCH INSTALLATION CALLED GAMMA BASE.

ARE YOU CERTAIN YOU WANT TO GO THRU WITH THIS GLENN?

I'M POSITIVE, GENERAL ROSS! I'VE GIVEN THE MATTER A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT...

...AND THIS SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY COURSE OPEN TO ME!

GLENN AND I DID A LOT OF TALKING BEFORE HE CAME TO THIS DECISION, DADDY.

I KNOW YOU DID, BETTY. I JUST CAN'T HELP THINKING THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER WAY!

ISN'T THIS EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE A RATHER EXTREME SOLUTION TO YOUR MARITAL PROBLEMS, MAJOR?

BELIEVE ME, GENERAL--THE EMOTIONAL TURMOIL I'VE BEEN EXPERIENCING LATELY CALLS FOR EXTREME SOLUTIONS!

WELL THEN, I'M NOT GOING TO PLAY THE PUSHY FATHER-IN-LAW!

YOU GO DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO, SON!

THIS IS JUST SO CRAZY, SAMSON. I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN GLENN TALBOT'S TROUBLES FOR MONTHS NOW*--

--BUT I NEVER FIGURED IT WOULD WIND UP LIKE THIS!

I DON'T THINK ANY OF US REALLY DID, QUARTERMAIN.

RIGHT NOW, I FEEL VERY SORRY ...FOR BOTH OF THEM.

*SINCE HULK #187, --L.

WELL, I... I GUESS THIS IS IT, GLENN. YOUR PLANE IS WAITING.

PLEASE, DARLING... T-TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, WILL YOU?

WRITE TO ME.

THINK OF ME.

I WILL, SWEETHEART. THAT--AND A WHOLE LOT MORE!

HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED IT YET, BETTY? NO MATTER WHERE I GO FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE...

...YOU'LL ALWAYS BE WITH ME.

OH, GLENN... I'M GOING TO MISS YOU.

WELL, HANG IN THERE, EVERYBODY!

I'LL BE BACK... SOON AS I CAN!

WE'LL ALL BE WAITING FOR YOU, SON.

KEEP YOUR CHIN UP, MAJOR.

AND GOOD LUCK.

GOOD-BYE... MY COVE.

THERE IS REALLY NOTHING MORE TO BE SAID.

THUS, THE FOUR SOLEMN FIGURES STAND SILENTLY BY, AS THE SLEEK SILVER JET HURTLES DOWN THE RUNWAY, THEN REACHES FOR THE SKY--

--CARRYING WITH IT SO MANY THOUGHTS LEFT UNSPOKEN, SO MANY DREAMS LEFT UNFULFILLED.

HE'S GONE, BETTY. YOU MIGHT AS WELL FACE THAT.

COME ON. LET'S HEAD INSIDE, THERE NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO HERE!

MAYBE THERE'S NOTHING MORE YOU CAN DO, LEONARD -- BUT THERE'S PLENTY LEFT FOR ME!

OH--AND JUST BECAUSE MY HUSBAND IS GONE, THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M SUDDENLY UP FOR GRABS!

HUH?

BUT I WAS ONLY...

WHEW! SHE'S SURE "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS'S DAUGHTER, ISN'T SHE?

MORE THEN YOU'LL EVER KNOW, MISTER!

I'VE SAT ON MY DUFF LONG ENOUGH! IT'S TIME I TOOK AN ACTIVE PART IN RUNNING MY OWN LIFE...

...AND I KNOW JUST HOW TO BEGIN!

IT IS A SLIGHTLY CONFUSED BRUCE BANNER WHO ACCOMPANIES THE BALDING MASTER OF THE UNKNOWN UP THE NEW JERSEY PALISADES.

HE REALLY HAS NO IDEA HOW A 146-POUND PHYSICIST CAN HELP TO SAVE THE EARTH--

--BUT HE HAS GIVEN DOCTOR DRUID HIS WORD, AND HE MEANS TO KEEP IT!

THAT'S OUR DESTINATION THERE IN THE DISTANCE, MY FRIEND.

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH OF A BASE FROM WHICH TO CONQUER THE WORLD, DOC.

PERHAPS NOT, BRUCE-- BUT I ASSURE YOU THAT IS WHERE WE WILL FIND THE MAHA YOGI!

THEN WHY ARE WE STOPPING HERE?

TO GAIN A LITTLE INFORMATION, PERHAPS.

FILL 'ER UP, MISTER?

PLEASE DO. AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, I WONDER IF YOU COULD TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT MERLIN INDUSTRIES?

YOU MEAN THAT UGLY BUNCH OF BUILDINGS UP THE ROAD? THERE'S NOT MUCH TO TELL.

AND IT'S MIZ, NOT MISS.

I'VE HEARD NOTHING GOOD ABOUT THAT PLACE, I CAN TELL YOU THAT MUCH. I KNOW THEY WORK ALL THRU THE NIGHT SOMETIMES.

AND THEY SAY THERE 'RE PEOPLE THAT'VE GONE UP THERE WHO'VE NEVER COME BACK!

THANK YOU, MS. PLEASE KEEP THE CHANGE.

HEY, YOU 'RE NOT REALLY THINKING OF GOING UP THERE, ARE YOU?

THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT I'M THINKING.

WELL, IT'S YOUR FUNERAL, MISTER.

NOW THAT'S AN UNFORTUNATE CHOICE OF WORDS.

AND AS THE CAUTIOUS PAIR DRAW NEAR THE TOWERING COMPLEX...

ANY IDEA HOW WE'RE GOING TO GET INTO THAT LATTER-DAY FORTRESS, DOC?

JUST TRUST ME, MY FRIEND.

CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?

YES. WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE CHAIR-MAN OF THE BOARD!

CERTAINLY, SIR. GO RIGHT ON IN!

MAN, WAS I SURPRISED WHEN YOU PULLED OUT THAT PASS, DOC.

NOT HALF AS SURPRISED AS THAT GUARD WILL BE WHEN HE DISCOVERS IT WAS MERELY A HYPNOTIC ILLUSION!

K-WHANG!

UH-OH, DOC--I THINK THE SURPRISE IS ON US!

HOW TERRIBLY ASTUTE OF YOU, FOOLISH MORTAL!

WELCOME TO MY HUMBLE ABODE, DOCTOR ANTHONY DRUID!

THE MAHA YOGI HAS BEEN EXPECTING YOU!

HOLY HANNAH! THE ENTIRE INTERIOR OF THIS COMPLEX HAS SUDDENLY BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A MEDIEVAL CASTLE!

THEN THE TIME FOR PRETEXT IS PAST, MY FRIEND!

WE'D BEST PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WHAT-EVER WILL COME NEXT!

LIKE WHAT, FOR EXAMPLE?

LIKE THAT RAGING WALL OF FIRE!

HUH?

IT--IT JUST SPRANG UP OUT OF NOWHERE!

IT'S *SEALED* THE ENTIRE *CORRIDOR!*

WE HAVEN'T A PRAYER OF GETTING *PAST* IT!

THAT ALL DEPENDS UPON *WHO* ONE PRAYS TO, MY FRIEND!

QUICKLY, DR. BANNER-- CLIMB UPON MY BACK!

I SHALL GET US *ACROSS* THIS FLAMING BARRICADE!

YOU CAN'T *DO* IT, DOC! THE GROUND HAS BECOME A BED OF *RED-HOT COALS!*

BUT SUCH THINGS ARE NO REAL *OBSTACLE* TO ONE WHO HAS MASTERED THE ARCANE *POWERS* OF THE ANCIENT *BRITONS,* MY FRIEND--

--ONE WHO IS THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF THE CELTIC *WIZARDS* WHO PLIED THEIR MYSTIC CRAFT AT MYSTERIOUS *STONEHENGE!*

I--I *SEE* IT, DOC --BUT I'M NOT SURE I *BELIEVE* IT!

THE COALS HAVE *NO EFFECT* ON YOU!

ALL IT REQUIRES IS *CONCENTRATION,* MY FRIEND--

"--AND *FAITH!*"

IT APPEARS, DR. BANNER, THAT THE WAY TO THE *MAHA YOGI* SHALL NOT BE AN *EASY* ONE!

THAT PRESUPPOSES YOUR *REACHING* ME AT ALL, PRESUMPTUOUS ONE--

--AND I'VE NO INTENTION OF ALLOWING YOU TO *DO* THAT!

FOOLS, PREPARE TO *DIE!*

HOLY HANNAH! WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE FRYING PAN *YET!*

ZAK!

I LIKE THE WAY YA PUT THAT, PUNK--

--'CUZ ONCE MY LASER-LANCE ZEROES IN ON YA--

--YER GONNA BE SIZZLIN' MEAT!

OUT OF HIS WAY, DOC--

--BEFORE YOU GET FLASH-FRIED!

YEAH--THAT'S THE SPIRIT, PUNKS! GO ON AN' TRY TA AVOID ME!

YA AIN'T GOT A CHANCE OF SUC-CEEDIN'--BUT IT'LL MAKE THE GAME MORE INTERESTIN'!

"AN' AT LEAST THIS WAY, YA CAN DIE STANDIN ON YER FEET!

"BUT EITHER WAY, YER STILL GONNA...

KWHOOSH!

HE MISSED AGAIN--BUT THAT HEAVY OAKEN DOOR MUST'VE FINISHED HIM!

COME ON, DOC! LET'S GET GOING BEFORE... NO!

THAT CYCLE-RIDING PSYCHO IS STILL ARMED--AND DANGEROUS!

MY SPECIAL ARMOR PROTECTED ME, YA JERKS!

BUT THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' THAT'S GONNA PROTECT YOU--

--FROM THIS!!

IT WOULD BE SO SIMPLE TO PUT AN END TO THIS!

ALL I'D HAVE TO DO IS BECOME THE HULK AGAIN!

BUT I'VE SWORN TO *FORGET* THAT BIG GREEN MONSTER WAS EVER A *PART* OF ME...

...SWORN I'D TRY TO MAKE A LIFE FOR MYSELF AS A *MAN*...

...AND IF IT'S GOING TO BE ANY SORT OF LIFE WORTH *LIVING*...

...I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GET *OUT* OF THIS MESS...

...*ALONE*!!

THE HEAVY CHUNK OF WOOD ***JAMMED*** *THRU ITS FRONT SPOKES, THE STYLIZED* ***MOTOR-CYCLE*** *COMES TO A SUDDEN* ***STOP***--

NOOOOOOOO

--*BUT ITS HEAVILY-ARMORED* ***RIDER*** *JUST KEEPS RIGHT ON* ***GOING***!

AT BREAKNECK ***SPEED***, *THE METAL-CLAD MERCENARY* ***HURTLES*** *HELPLESSLY THRU THE AIR*--

--*UNTIL HIS MADDENING* ***MOMENTUM*** *BRINGS HIM INTO RATHER VIOLENT* ***CONFLICT*** *WITH THE GRANITE* ***WALL*** *THAT LOOMS BEFORE HIM!*

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE ***WALL*** *COMES OUT THE* ***WINNER***!

YOU DID QUITE ***WELL***, MY FRIEND.

YOU'VE ***PROVEN*** I MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE IN ASKING FOR YOUR ***AID***!

YEAH, I... I GUESS MAYBE I ***HAVE***.

BUT YOU WILL NOT HAVE LONG TO ***ENJOY*** *YOUR LITTLE* ***TRIUMPH***, *MORTALS!*

I HAVE TRIED TO MAKE YOUR ***PASSING*** *FROM THIS LIFE A RELATIVELY* ***PAINLESS*** *ONE...*

"...BUT NOW YOU SHALL DIE AS YOU DESERVE TO DIE...

"...SHOT DOWN LIKE THE DOGS YOU TRULY ARE!"

YOU HEARD THE BOSS, GUYS--

--CUT THOSE SUCKERS DOWN!!

CHOW!

POW!

CHOK!

BHUD! UD! AH!

WHAT DO WE DO NOW, DOC? YOU CAN'T WALK US OUT OF A COURTYARD FILLED WITH HEAVY-WEAPONS FIRE--

--AND IT'LL ONLY BE SECONDS BEFORE THOSE SLUGS FINISH US!

PERHAPS, MY FRIEND...

...BUT DOCTOR DRUID POSSESSES OTHER POWERS AS WELL--

--SUCH AS THE IRRESISTABLE POWER OF HYPNOTISM!

"POWER THAT CAN CONTROL THE VERY MINDS OF OUR ATTACKERS--

"--AND RENDER THEM IMMOBILE!"

AND ONCE THAT IS ACCOMPLISHED--

--THERE IS YET ANOTHER TALENT I MAY EMPLOY--

"--THE ABILITY TO LEVITATE INANIMATE OBJECTS!"

HUH? M-MY RIFLE--?!?

"IN ITS FASHION, IT IS THE MOST SATISFYING POWER OF ALL!"

THWAK!

AARRRGHH!!

YER FANCY PARLOR TRICKS AIN'T GONNA HELP YA, BALDY--

--NOT WHEN WE GOT YA OUTNUMBERED LIKE THIS!

GO ON, SUCKERS-- START RUNNIN'!

SPOW!

THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' MORE FUN THAN A MOVIN' TARGET!

SWEET LORD! THAT LAST BURST OF GUNFIRE SEPARATED ME FROM THE DOC--

--AND I'VE BACKED MYSELF SMACK INTO A CORNER!

SPAK-AK-AK

SPAK!!

WHAT IN GOD'S NAME DO I DO NOW?

PANIC SEIZES THE FRAIL PHYSICIST AS SCREAMING BULLETS FLY AROUND HIM...

HIS PULSE BEGINS TO QUICKEN...

SPAK-AK-AK

...HIS HEART BEGINS TO RACE...

AK-AK-AK

...AS THE FATAL GUNFIRE DRAWS CLOSER...

AK-AK-AK

...CLOSER...

AK!

...CLOSER!

SPWEE!

SPWEE!

CLOSE... BUT NO CIGAR!

HULK DOES NOT KNOW WHERE HULK IS--

--BUT HULK DOES KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE!

PUNY HUMANS ARE SHOOTING AT HULK AGAIN--

--TRYING TO KILL HULK AGAIN--

--AND HULK DOES NOT LIKE IT!!

THWOOM!

LEAD ON, HULK! THE PATH TO THE MAHA YOGI LIES BEFORE US!

HULK DOES NOT KNOW WHY--

BUT HULK WILL DO AS BALD MAN SAYS!

HEY-- GET SOME REIN-FORCEMENTS DOWN HERE!

BAH! MORE LITTLE MEN COME TO ATTACK HULK--

--BUT HULK WILL SMASH ANYONE WHO GETS IN HULK'S WAY!

THROK!

SO, IT APPEARS THE GOOD DOCTOR IS EXERTING A SUBTLE HYPNOTIC INFLUENCE OVER THE HULK'S FEEBLE MIND--

--ENABLING HIM TO DIRECT THE MAN-BRUTE'S ACTIONS!

MOST INTRIGUING, INDEED.

PLEASE, MASTER--LET MONGU GO AFTER THE INTRUDERS! AT YOUR COMMAND, I WILL HACK THEM INTO LITTLE PIECES!

YOUR OFFER IS APPRECIATED, FAITHFUL ONE-- BUT THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO GO AFTER OUR FOES!

IT APPEARS THEY HAVE COME TO US!!

SKROOM

PUNY DOOR WILL NOT STOP HULK!

NOTHING CAN STOP HULK-- NOTHING!!

MUTANT, YOUR PLANS TO CONQUER THE EARTH ARE AT AN *END!*

HULK, I ORDER YOU TO *CAPTURE* THE MAHA YOGI!

HAH! HULK WILL SMASH LITTLE MAN'S *FACE!*

I THINK *NOT,* MONSTER!

FOR, YOU SEE, I *TOO* POSSESS SUPRA-NORMAL *MENTAL POWERS--*

--AND I COMMAND YOU TO DESTROY DOCTOR DRUID!!

NO, HULK-- YOU MUSTN'T *LISTEN* TO HIM!

BUT...

CAPTURE THE *MAHA YOGI,* HULK!

BUT...

DESTROY *DR. DRUID,* MONSTER!

BUT...

CAPTURE THE MAHA YOGI!!

BUT...

DESTROY DR. DRUID!!

NO!!

BOTH OF YOU-- *STOP!!*

YOU ARE TEARING HULK'S BRAIN *APART!!*

*AND THE MAN-BRUTE'S TORMENTED MIND SEEKS **RELIEF** FROM THE OVERWHELMING **PAIN** IN THE ONLY WAY IT **CAN**...*

...IN UNCONSCIOUS-NESS!

HULK-- *NO!*

OUR MIND-WAR WAS *TOO MUCH* FOR HIM!!

WHUD!

YOUR FRIEND IS BEYOND YOUR *HELP,* DRUID--

--AND I'M AFRAID YOU HAVE YOUR *OWN* PROBLEMS AT THE MOMENT!

MONGU, AT MY COMMAND--I WANT YOU TO *SLAY DOCTOR DRUID!!*

NEXT ISSUE: *THE FATE OF THE ENTIRE **WORLD** HANGS IN BALANCE, AS **BRUCE BANNER** BATTLES FOR HIS LIFE AGAINST THE MONSTROUS **MONGU!** BE HERE FOR...*

INSANITY IS JUST A STATE OF MIND!

INCREDIBLE HULK

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THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

™

IT'S ALMOST OVER, DOCTOR DRUID!

A MOMENT LONGER AND THE HULK WILL BE SLAIN--BY THE MONSTROUS MONGU!!

THE MONSTER AND THE MYSTIC!

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

LEN WEIN WRITER EDITOR / SAL BUSCEMA & ERNIE CHAN ARTISTS / GLYNIS WEIN: COLORIST / IRV WATANABE: LETTERER

THE MONSTER and the MYSTIC!

THEY HAD COME HERE TO **SAVE THE WORLD,** AND THEY GAVE IT THE **BEST SHOT** THEY HAD-- BUT, FRANKLY, IT JUST WASN'T **GOOD** ENOUGH!

FOR NOW, THE HULK LIES SPRAWLED **UNCONSCIOUS,** VICTIM OF AN INCREDIBLE **MENTAL COMBAT** BETWEEN THE MAN CALLED **DOCTOR DRUID** AND THE MYSTERIOUS **MAHA YOGI**-- WHILE THE GOOD DOCTOR HIMSELF STANDS **ALONE** AGAINST THE MONSTROUS POWER OF THE CREATURE CALLED **MONGU!**

ALL IN ALL, A MOST **UNFORTUNATE** SITUATION--FOR SHOULD THE BALDING **MASTER OF THE UNKNOWN** NOW JOIN HIS EMERALD COMPANION IN **DEFEAT,** THE WHOLE BALL OF WAX IS GONNA GO SLIDING STRAIGHT DOWN THE TUBES ALONG **WITH** HIM.

DON'T YOU REALIZE YET YOUR CAUSE IS **HOPELESS,** DRUID?

SURRENDER TO ME-- WHILE YOU STILL **CAN!**

SURRENDER, WRETCHED ONE--OR **DIE!!**

EVEN IF I *WANTED* TO SURRENDER, I WOULDN'T *DO* SO--

--NOT WHEN THE FATE OF THE ENTIRE *WORLD* HANGS IN THE BALANCE!

THEN FEEL THE BITE OF MONGU'S *AXE*, FOOL--

--AND LET YOUR *CORPSE* BE A MONUMENT TO YOUR *COURAGE!*

KRANG!

YOUR WEAPON IS MOST *FORMIDABLE* INDEED, MONGU--

--BUT DOCTOR DRUID IS NOT WITHOUT *DEFENSES* OF HIS *OWN!*

"FOR EXAMPLE-- THE POWER OF *LEVITATION!*"

WELL DONE, DRUID!

YOU CONTROL THAT *TAPESTRY* AS DEFTLY AS I COULD *MYSELF!*

BAH! YOUR PARLOR TRICKS MAY BE *EFFECTIVE* AGAINST THE MERCENARY CRETINS WHO *SERVE* US*--

SHRAKKT!

--BUT THEY ARE ONLY AN *INSULT* TO THE GALAXY'S GREATEST *GLADIATOR!*

*AS DEMONSTRATED *LAST ISSUE.* --LEN.

I DO NOT REQUIRE A *WEAPON* TO DEAL WITH SUCH AS *YOU*, WRETCH--

--WHEN MY BARE *HANDS* WILL SERVE ME AS *WELL!*

KROOM!

BUT ONLY IF THEY *STRIKE* ME, GLADIATOR!

YOUR AGILITY IN *BATTLE* IS ALMOST THE EQUAL OF *MINE*, DRUID--

--BUT MY TALENT FOR *TREACHERY* MAKES ME YOUR *BETTER* BY FAR!

FOR, IN CONCENTRATING YOUR EFFORTS AGAINST *MONGU* AS I INTENDED, YOU HAVE LEFT YOURSELF OPEN FOR *THIS*--

--MY MOST DEVASTATING *MIND-BLAST!*

EH?

AARRGGHM!!

WHY DID YOU *DO* THAT, MASTER?

DID YOU NOT TRUST ME TO FINISH HIM *ALONE?*

I TRUST YOU *IMPLICITLY*, FAITHFUL ONE--

--BUT THERE IS FAR TOO MUCH AT *STAKE* HERE TO RISK THE SLIGHTEST POSSIBILITY OF *ERROR!*

NOW *QUICKLY*, MONGU--PICK UP OUR FALLEN *ADVERSARIES*, AND REMOVE THEM FROM MY *PRESENCE!*

I WISH TO BE CERTAIN THEY POSE NO FURTHER *THREAT* TO MY PLANS!

SHALL I *SLAY* THEM, MASTER?

NO, I THINK I'D RATHER YOU TOOK THEM TO THE *DUNGEONS* INSTEAD!

I'M POSITIVE YOU CAN FIND SOMETHING OR OTHER TO KEEP THEM-- AH--*OCCUPIED* FOR A WHILE!

I KNOW JUST THE *THING*, MASTER!

SPLENDID, MY FRIEND. DO HURRY *BACK*, WON'T YOU?

WHILE, ELSEWHERE...

BREAKER ONE-NINE! THIS IS PEEPIN' TOM, HEADIN' TOWARDS THE BIG APPLE ALONG THE JERSEY BOULEVARD, WITH A TRUCKIN' TEEN RIDIN' SHOTGUN AND NO BEARS ANYWHERE! HOW WE BE BACK YOUR WAY?

BLOTZ

PEEPIN' TOM, THIS IS BROOKLYN WHEELER! WELCOME TO FUN CITY, ACE! NOTHIN' BUT A WHITE LINE AND A GREEN LIGHT AHEAD!

NEW YORK 10 MILES

THAT CB RADIO SURE COMES IN HANDY, DON'T IT?

BETTER BELIEVE IT, LI'L BUDDY.

I WOULDN'T PUSH A RIG WITHOUT ONE!

THANKS FOR THE INFO, BROOKLYN WHEELER. KEEP 'EM BETWEEN THE DITCHES, GOOD BUDDY.

PEEPIN' TOM, THIS IS BROOKLYN WHEELER! WE GONE!

I'LL TELL YA, YOU DUDES SOUND LIKE YOU TALK A WHOLE DIFFERENT LANGUAGE.

YEAH? FUNNY, ME AN' MY GOOD BUDDIES HAVE ALWAYS SAID THE SAME ABOUT YOU KIDS!

AMIABLY, YOUNG JIM WILSON AND HIS TRUCKING COMPANION CONTINUE THEIR CONVERSATION, AS THE POWERFUL EIGHTEEN-WHEELER RUMBLES THRU THE LINCOLN TUNNEL INTO LOWER MANHATTAN--

MANHATTAN

--WHERE, AT LAST, ON A QUIET STREET IN THE WAREHOUSE DISTRICT...

THIS IS AS FAR AS I GO, LI'L BUDDY. YOU KEEP YOUR WHEELS SPINNIN' NOW!

YEAH, JACK-- SAME TO YOU!

THANKS FOR THE LIFT...GOOD BUDDY.

CONSTRICTOR, THIS IS PEEPIN' TOM-- REPORTING AS ORDERED! I JUST DROPPED THE KID AT THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER OF HOUSTON STREET!

ANY TIME YOU WANNA PICK HIM UP...HE'S YOURS!

AND WHILE THE HULK'S SOMETIMES SIDEKICK STROLLS UNAWARE TOWARD POSSIBLE DISASTER...

...WHAT SAY WE RETURN TO THE MAN-BRUTE HIMSELF?

AT LAST--THE HULK IS REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS!

UHHNN...

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HULK NOW?

AT THE MOMENT, MY FRIEND--WE ARE CAPTIVES OF THE MAHA YOGI!

HUH?

THEY HAVE PUT HULK IN CHAINS AGAIN?

NO! HULK HATES CHAINS!

HULK--MUST--BE--FREE!!

NO, HULK--DON'T STRAIN AGAINST YOUR BONDS! THOSE SHACKLES ARE...

"...WIRED FOR MASSIVE ELECTRO-SHOCK!!"

AARRGGHH!!

HULK... FAILED!

AYE, MY FRIEND--I FEAR NOT ALL YOUR AWESOME POWER CAN HELP US NOW!

IF WE ARE TO BE FREED AT ALL, IT CAN ONLY BE BY THE HAND OF... BRUCE BANNER!

LOOK AT ME, HULK! LOOK DEEP INTO MY EYES!

NO! HULK HATES PUNY BANNER MORE THAN ANYONE!
IF BALD MAN WANTS TO BRING BANNER BACK, HULK WILL NOT LISTEN TO YOU!
STOP LOOKING AT HULK LIKE THAT, BALD MAN --WITH THOSE STRANGE, GLOWING EYES!
HULK WILL NOT LET YOU BRING PUNY BANNER BACK!
HULK WILL NOT LET YOU CHANGE HULK!
LEAVE HULK ALONE, BALD MAN--HULK IS WARNING YOU!
HULK WILL NOT LET YOU...
...INSIDE... HULK'S... HEAD!
ROBERT BRUCE BANNER?
FOLLOW THE SOUND OF MY VOICE, DR. BANNER ...AND COME TO ME!
HEED ME, DOCTOR... THERE IS NOTHING TO HOLD YOU HERE...
...NOTHING FOR YOU TO FEAR...
COME FORTH, MY FRIEND...
...COME FORTH!!
WHO...?
WHO IS IT?
PLEASE ANSWER ME!
TELL ME WHAT IT IS YOU WANT...
...FROM ROBERT BRUCE BANNER...
HUH? OH--AH-- HI, DOC. WHAT'S UP?

HMMM--IT APPEARS WE'VE BEEN **CAPTURED** SINCE THE HULK TOOK OVER!

BUT ANY RESTRAINTS DESIGNED TO HOLD A **HALF-TON MONSTER**--

--AREN'T GOING TO PROVE VERY **EFFECTIVE** AGAINST A SKINNY LITTLE **PHYSICIST!**

THEN PERHAPS YOU CAN FREE ME FROM **MY** BONDS AS **WELL**, MY FRIEND!

OF COURSE! I WASN'T **THINKING!** JUST **HANG ON** A...

ER--**SORRY** ABOUT THAT, DOC.

AND MOMENTS LATER...

IS SOMETHING **WRONG**, DOC? YOU LOOK WHITE AS A **SHEET!**

I FEAR THE **ENERGY** I EXPENDED TO BRING ABOUT YOUR **TRANSFORMATION** HAS **EXHAUSTED** ME SOMEWHAT, MY FRIEND.

WELL, YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO **SIT HERE** AND RECOVER YOUR **STRENGTH**, DOC--

--UNLESS WE CAN FIGURE SOME WAY TO GET **PAST** THAT LOCKED DOOR!

I BELIEVE I CAN **SOLVE** THAT PROBLEM, DR. BANNER!

ALTHOUGH MY MYSTIC POWERS ARE BY NO MEANS **EQUAL** TO THOSE OF THE FAMOUS **DOCTOR STRANGE**--

--ANTHONY DRUID IS STILL NO **NOVICE** IN THE ARCANE ARTS!

SKRAKT!

NOW **QUICKLY**, MY FRIEND-- WE MUST FIND OUR WAY **BACK** TO THE MAHA YOGI BEFORE...

IT'S **TOO LATE**, DOC!

WE'VE ALREADY **BLOWN IT!**

GOING SOMEWHERE, WRETCHED ONES?

WHILE, AT A CERTAIN NEW MEXICAN PARA-MILITARY INSTALLATION...

BETTY?

ARE YOU HERE, DAUGHTER?

I THOUGHT WE MIGHT TALK FOR A...

BETTY?

WHY, SHE... SHE'S NOT HERE!

AND THERE'S A NOTE ADDRESSED TO ME ON THAT TABLE!

WHAT COULD IT...

OH.

Dear Father—
By the time you read this, I will be gone. Please don't ask me why I'm going. I'm not really certain I know the answer to that myself. I only know it's something I have to do.

"AND PLEASE DON'T THINK OF THIS AS YOUR FAULT, EITHER. IT ISN'T.

"IT'S NO ONE'S FAULT, ACTUALLY...

"...EXCEPT MINE!

"ALL MY LIFE, I'VE BEEN GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS'S DAUGHTER...OR BRUCE BANNER'S GIRL-FRIEND...OR MAJOR GLENN TALBOT'S WIFE!

"I'VE STOOD IN THE SHADOW OF OTHERS FOR SO LONG, I NO LONGER CAST ANY SHADOW OF MY OWN.

"AND SO LONG AS I REMAIN HERE AT GAMMA BASE, THAT'S THE WAY IT WILL ALWAYS BE.

"I'LL NEVER HAVE THE CHANCE TO GROW...TO FULFILL MYSELF ...TO BECOME THE WOMAN I COULD BE.

"THAT'S WHY I'M LEAVING TONIGHT, DAD, BEFORE YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK ME OUT OF IT...AS I'M CERTAIN YOU COULD.

"PLEASE DON'T THINK OF THIS LETTER AS AN EXCUSE, DADDY... BUT AS AN EXPLANATION.

"I OWE YOU THAT MUCH AT LEAST.

"I'LL THINK OF YOU OFTEN, DAD, AND I'LL WRITE TO YOU WHEN I CAN.

"UNTIL THEN, I'LL ALWAYS REMAIN...

"...YOUR LOVING DAUGHTER, BETTY."

DAMN!!

THE AIR WITHIN THE MOULDERING CASTLE BATTLEMENTS IS MUSTY, HEAVY WITH AGE. "A RATHER NEAT ILLUSION," BRUCE BANNER THINKS TO HIMSELF, AS HE STUMBLES ALONG A TORCH-LIT CORRIDOR, "CONSIDERING THIS ENTIRE PLACE WAS ONLY BUILT WITHIN THE PAST FEW MONTHS!"

YOU ARE MOST FORTUNATE THE MASTER WISHES TO SEE YOU BOTH AGAIN!

IF MONGU HAD HIS WAY, I WOULD HAVE HACKED YOU BOTH IN TWAIN BY NOW!

BUT YOU OBEY YOUR MASTER'S ORDERS WITHOUT QUESTION, DON'T YOU?

WHY, MONGU? I CAN SENSE YOU ARE NOT EVEN OF THIS WORLD! WHY DO YOU FOLLOW THE MAHA YOGI SO BLINDLY?

BECAUSE I OWE THE MASTER BOTH MY HONOR AND MY LIFE, WRETCHED ONE!

ONCE I WAS THE GREATEST GLADIATOR ON THE DARK WORLD OF SANDT...

"...UNTIL I SHOWED FEAR WHILE BATTLING THE MONSTROUS MAN-THING...

"...AND THE CREATURE FUSED MY BATTLE-AXE FOREVER TO MY HAND!*

*AS WITNESSED IN FEAR #14. --LEN.

"ON A WORLD OF WARRIORS, THERE IS NO PLACE FOR ONE WHO HAS DISPLAYED EVEN A MOMENT'S WEAKNESS.

"THUS, MY FELLOW WARRIORS SHUNNED ME. I BECAME AN OUTCAST...

"...UNTIL I COULD BEAR THE SHAME NO LONGER!

"AT LAST, I STOOD UPON THE VERY BRINK OF THE FABLED ABYSS OF ETERNITY...

"...AND, WITHOUT HESITATION, I HURLED MYSELF INTO THE VOID!

"FOR TIME BEYOND RECKONING, I PLUMMETED THRU THE SPACE BETWEEN ALL DIMENSIONS AND WORLDS...

*...UNTIL A HELPING HAND REACHED OUT TO ME...

"...AND PULLED ME TO THE WAITING SHORE OF A WHOLE NEW REALITY!"

COME, MY FRIEND --I HAVE NEED OF YOU!

THE MAHA YOGI GAVE ME A CHANCE TO REDEEM MYSELF, A CHANCE TO BECOME A WARRIOR ONCE MORE...

...AND FOR THAT, I WILL BE FAITHFUL TO HIM UNTO DEATH...AND FAR BEYOND!!

THE REMAINDER OF THE LONG JOURNEY ALONG THE CASTLE CORRIDORS IS PASSED IN SILENCE, UNTIL AT LAST...

BEWARE, MY FRIEND;--THE MAHA YOGI WOULD NOT HAVE SUMMONED US WITHOUT GOOD REASON.

I DON'T DOUBT THAT, DOC. THE QUESTION IS-- WHAT REASON?

IT IS QUITE SIMPLE, MORTAL. MY MERCENARIES GROW RESTLESS, AWAITING MY ULTIMATE TRIUMPH!

I THOUGHT I MIGHT PROVIDE THEM WITH A BIT OF AMUSEMENT...

...AND IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT THERE IS NOTHING THEY WOULD APPRECIATE MORE THAN A LITTLE BATTLE BETWEEN THE FAITHFUL MONGU--

--AND THE BESTIAL FURY OF THE HULK!

THERE'S JUST ONE LITTLE FLAW IN YOUR PLAN, YOGI! Y'SEE, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BECOMING THE HULK AGAIN...

...ESPECIALLY IF IT MEANS PROVIDING YOU WITH SOME PERVERSE FORM OF ENTERTAINMENT!

THEN YOU SHALL GO INTO THE ARENA AS YOU ARE, FOOL--

--AND WE SHALL SEE HOW LONG IT TAKES FOR THE HULK TO APPEAR UPON THE SCENE!

Y-YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! I WOULDN'T LAST TEN SECONDS IN THE ARENA AGAINST YOUR SHAGGY SERVANT!

DO NOT WORRY, WRETCHED ONE. I WILL PROLONG YOUR AGONY FOR LONG AS I POSSIBLY CAN!

YOGI, I BEG YOU TO RECONSIDER THIS!

THERE IS NOTHING TO RECONSIDER, MY GOOD DOCTOR DRUID!

NOW TAKE THAT SPINELESS WEAKLING TO THE ARENA--AND PREPARE HIM FOR THE ORDEAL TO COME!

AND, SHORTLY...

"PREPARE HIM," THE MAN SAYS!

SO THEY HAND ME A **BATTLE-AXE** THAT WOULD HAVE GIVEN **PAUL BUNYAN** A HERNIA--AND THEY TELL ME I'M **READY!**

I COULDN'T FIGHT A **BULL** WITH THIS THING, LET ALONE KING KONG'S **KID BROTHER!**

YOU KNOW, THERE'S STILL TIME TO CALL THIS WHOLE THING **OFF**, YOGI!

WHAT? AND DISAPPOINT OUR DISTINGUISHED **GUEST OF HONOR** AS WELL AS THE TEEMING THRONG THAT HAS COME HERE TO SEE YOUR **BLOOD** SPILLED?

NO, FOOLISH MORTAL, EVEN IF I **WANTED** TO CALL THIS CONTEST OFF--WHICH I DO **NOT**--IT IS FAR **TOO LATE** FOR THAT NOW!

"YOUR BATTLE-GARBED OPPONENT HAS **ARRIVED!**"

AND **MONGU** HATES TO BE KEPT **WAITING!!**

UH...YOU'RE--AH--CERTAIN WE CAN'T TALK THIS **OVER?**

THE TIME FOR **TALK** WAS FINISHED **LONG AGO**, WRETCHED ONE!

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ACTION!!

NO HOPE FOR A PEACEFUL **RECONCILIATION**, EH?

UUNNNGGHH!!

NO HOPE FOR **ANY-THING**, WORM--

--LEAST OF ALL A **FUTURE!!**

WHAM!

OKAY, BANNER--IT'S TIME TO FACE *FACTS!* ALL THE *SNAPPY PATTER* IN THE WORLD WON'T SAVE YOU *NOW!*

FOR *DAYS* NOW, I'VE BEEN TRYING DESPERATELY TO *RID* MYSELF OF THE *HULK...*

...BUT I'M BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT THERE *IS* A TIME AND PLACE FOR MY JOLLY GREEN *ALTER EGO--*

--AND THAT TIME IS MOST DEFINITELY *NOW!!*

STAND *STILL*-- AND IT WILL ALL BE OVER *SWIFTLY!*

BROK!

YOUR COMPANION HAS LASTED FAR *LONGER* THAN I WOULD EVER HAVE *IMAGINED,* DRUID--

--BUT MONGU WILL SOON PUT AN *END* TO HIM!!

IF ONLY I COULD SUMMON UP MY *POWERS...*

...BUT IT'S... SO HARD...TO *CONCENTRATE...*

I MUST ADMIT IT'S *ODD,* THOUGH! I WAS CERTAIN THAT BY NOW THE *BATTLE* WOULD HAVE *TRIGGERED* THE...

...TRANSFORMATION.

SO! SHAGGY MAN TRIES TO *KILL* HULK WITH PUNY *AXE!*

BUT HULK DOES NOT NEED *AXE* TO DEAL WITH *SHAGGY MAN!*

HULK HAS THE *STRENGTH* THAT BELONGS TO HULK *ALONE--*

KRUNNCH!

AARRGHH!!

--AND *THAT* IS MORE THAN *ENOUGH!!*

YOU ARE INDEED ***POWERFUL***, HULKING ONE!

HULK IS ***MORE*** THAN POWERFUL, SHAGGY MAN!

HULK IS THE ***STRONGEST*** ONE THERE IS!!

PERHAPS, MONSTER--BUT YOUR MINDLESS ***BRUTALITY*** IS STILL NO MATCH FOR ONE WHO WAS ***BRED*** TO THE ***GLADITORIAL ARTS...***

SKRAKT!

...AND ***THAT*** IS WHY MONGU WILL ***DESTROY*** YOU!!

BLOOD OF SANDT! THAT BLOW FROM MY INDESTRUCTIBLE ***AXE*** COULD HAVE SAVAGED AN ***ARMY***--

--BUT THE HULKING ONE STILL ***STANDS!***

AND WHAT'S WORSE, MONGU--THAT BLOW HAS MADE HIM MAD!

HULK DOES NOT KNOW HOW HULK ***CAME*** TO THIS PLACE, SHAGGY MAN--

--BUT HULK HAS FOUGHT IN ARENAS LIKE THIS ***BEFORE!****

*IN ***HULK*** #201, FOR EXAMPLE, --LEN.

AAARRGHH!

POW!

HULK ***FOUGHT...*** AND HULK ***WON!!***

NEVER HAS MONGU BEEN **FELLED** BEFORE! HE MAY ACTUALLY **LOSE** THIS BATTLE, AND THUS LOSE **FACE** BEFORE THOSE WHO **SERVE** US...

...UNLESS I TAKE STEPS TO **ASSURE** HIS VICTORY--AND **SWIFTLY!**

I MUST CONCENTRATE MY MYSTIC POWER THRU THE **JEWEL OF JEOPARDY**--

--AND LEND **STRENGTH** TO MONGU'S **ARM!**

EH? MY **AXE**-- SUDDENLY IT **GLOWS**--!

AND I FEEL **POWER** COURSING THRU ME--

--POWER SUCH AS I HAVE NEVER KNOWN **BEFORE!**

HULK IS GOING TO **CRUSH** YOU, SHAGGY MAN!

THEN COME AHEAD AND **TRY,** MAN-BRUTE--IF YOU **DARE!**

THIS TIME, MONGU IS **READY** FOR YOU--WITH THE POWER OF **TELE-PORTATION** AT MY COMMAND!

HUH? THE ONE CALLED MONGU **DISAPPEARS**-- EVEN AS HULK **STRIKES!**

STAY IN ONE **PLACE,** SHAGGY MAN--SO HULK CAN **SMASH** YOU!

IF THERE IS ANY **SMASHING** TO BE DONE HERE, HULK--

--**I** SHALL BE THE ONE TO **DO** IT!!

UUNNGH!

THAT'S MORE **LIKE** IT! MONGU HAS THE **UPPER HAND** NOW--AND SO LONG AS I CONTINUE TO FEED HIM **POWER,** HE SHALL **RETAIN** IT!

MY **HEAD**...AT LAST...IT BEGINS TO **CLEAR**...

I CAN *THINK* ONCE MORE!

APPARENTLY, THE MAHA YOGI HELD ME UNDER A **SPELL**--BUT, IN DEVOTING HIS ENERGIES TO **MONGU**, HE UNKNOWINGLY **RELEASED** ME!

I'M STILL **WEAK**, BUT I MUST CONCENTRATE MY **POWERS**...DO WHAT I CAN TO **AID** MY EMERALD ALLY... BEFORE IT'S **TOO LATE!**

FALL! CURSE YOU, MONSTER-- WHY WON'T YOU **FALL?**

WHY DO YOU FIGHT TO DELAY THE **INEVITABLE?**

IN THE GALLERY, AN ORNAMENTAL TAPESTRY CORD **QUIVERS**...

...THEN SLOWLY BEGINS TO **MOVE.**

WHILE, IN THE ARENA **PROPER**...

CHUD!

ADMIT YOUR **DEFEAT**, HULKING ONE--

--OR BEFORE I AM DONE, I SWEAR YOU WILL **BEG** FOR DEATH!!

IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF **MOMENTS** NOW BEFORE THE BATTLE FINDS ITS **ENDING!**

AND WHEN MONGU EMERGES **VICTORIOUS**, NO MAN IN MY COMPANY WILL BE ABLE TO **DENY** MY RIGHT TO **RULE** THE PLANET...

URRKK!

MONGU, **FORGET** THE HULK FOR THE MOMENT-- AND RECOVER MY **JEWEL OF JEOPARDY!**

WITHOUT IT, WE BOTH ARE **LOST!**

HAVE NO **FEAR**, MASTER! FAITHFUL MONGU WILL NOT **FAIL** YOU!

BUT, IN TURNING TOWARDS THE FALLEN GEM, MONGU HAS MOMENTARILY **NEGLECTED** THE FURIOUS **HULK**--

--WHICH PROVES TO BE A MOST **UNFORTUNATE** ERROR IN JUDGMENT!

WHOK!

SHAGGY MAN TRIED TO **CLAIM** GLOWING **STONE** ON GROUND--

--BUT NOW GLOWING STONE BELONGS TO **HULK** INSTEAD!

BUT SHOULD HULK **KEEP** GLOWING STONE--OR **DESTROY** IT?

STONE **TINGLES** IN HULK'S HAND ...AS IF IT HAD **POWER!**

MAYBE POWER ENOUGH TO **HURT** HULK SOMEHOW!

NO! PLEASE, EMERALD ONE-- **RETURN** MY JEWEL AND I SWEAR YOU WILL NOT BE **HARMED!**

THE JEWEL OF JEOPARDY MEANS **NOTHING** TO YOU--

--BUT IT MEANS THE **WORLD** TO **ME!!**

BAH!

KRUNCH!

YOU MINDLESS **FOOL!** DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'VE JUST **DONE?**

THAT **JEWEL** WAS WHAT ENABLED ME TO **SURVIVE** FOR UNTOLD **MILLENIA...**

...AND WITHOUT ITS ARCANE ENERGIES TO **SUSTAIN** MY MUTANT POWERS...

...THE CENTURIES I'VE SPURNED CAN **CLAIM** ME AT LAST...

MASTER-- NO! WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU?

HULK DOESN'T UNDERSTAND--!?

BUT BEFORE ANY EXPLANATIONS CAN BE OFFERED, THE WIZENED CREATURE WHO HAD ONCE BEEN THE MAHA YOGI EXPELLS A REMORSEFUL SIGH, THEN TOPPLES FORWARD LIKE A RUPTURED RAG DOLL...

BY THE SHADOWS OF STONE-HENGE--!!

AND EVEN AS THE FRAIL FIGURE STRIKES THE HARD-PACKED ARENA FLOOR, THE MERCENARIES WHO HAD SAT WATCHING IN THE GALLERIES ALL SHAKE THEIR HEADS SADLY--

--THEN TURN AND FILE SILENTLY OUT OF THE STADIUM, SHEDDING THEIR ARMORED UNIFORMS AS THEY GO!!

AND THE MAHA YOGI'S DREAMS OF WORLD CONQUEST LIE WITH HIM IN THE DIRT!

MASTER? SPEAK TO ME, MASTER--I BEG OF YOU!!

YOU ARE STILL ...HERE, MONGU? YOU DID NOT... DESERT ME LIKE... THE REST?

DID YOU DESERT ME, MASTER-- WHEN I NEEDED YOUR HELP?

NO, MASTER, MONGU WILL BE NOW AS HE ALWAYS HAS BEEN...

FAITHFUL TO YOU, MASTER, UNTO DEATH... AND FAR BEYOND!

NEXT ISSUE: CRUSHED BY...THE CONSTRICTOR! BE HERE!

INCREDIBLE HULK

30¢ CC

212 JUNE 02456

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THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

CRUSHED BY THE CONSTRICTOR!

MY WHIPS ARE UTTERLY *UNBREAKABLE!* THEY'LL GROW TIGHTER--AND *TIGHTER*-- UNTIL--!!

STOP

RB
EC

THE GREEN GOLIATH BATTLES A PAID ASSASSIN--AND HIS AWESOME ADAMANTIUM COILS!!

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

LEN WEIN * SAL BUSCEMA & ERNIE CHAN * GLYNIS WEIN, colorist
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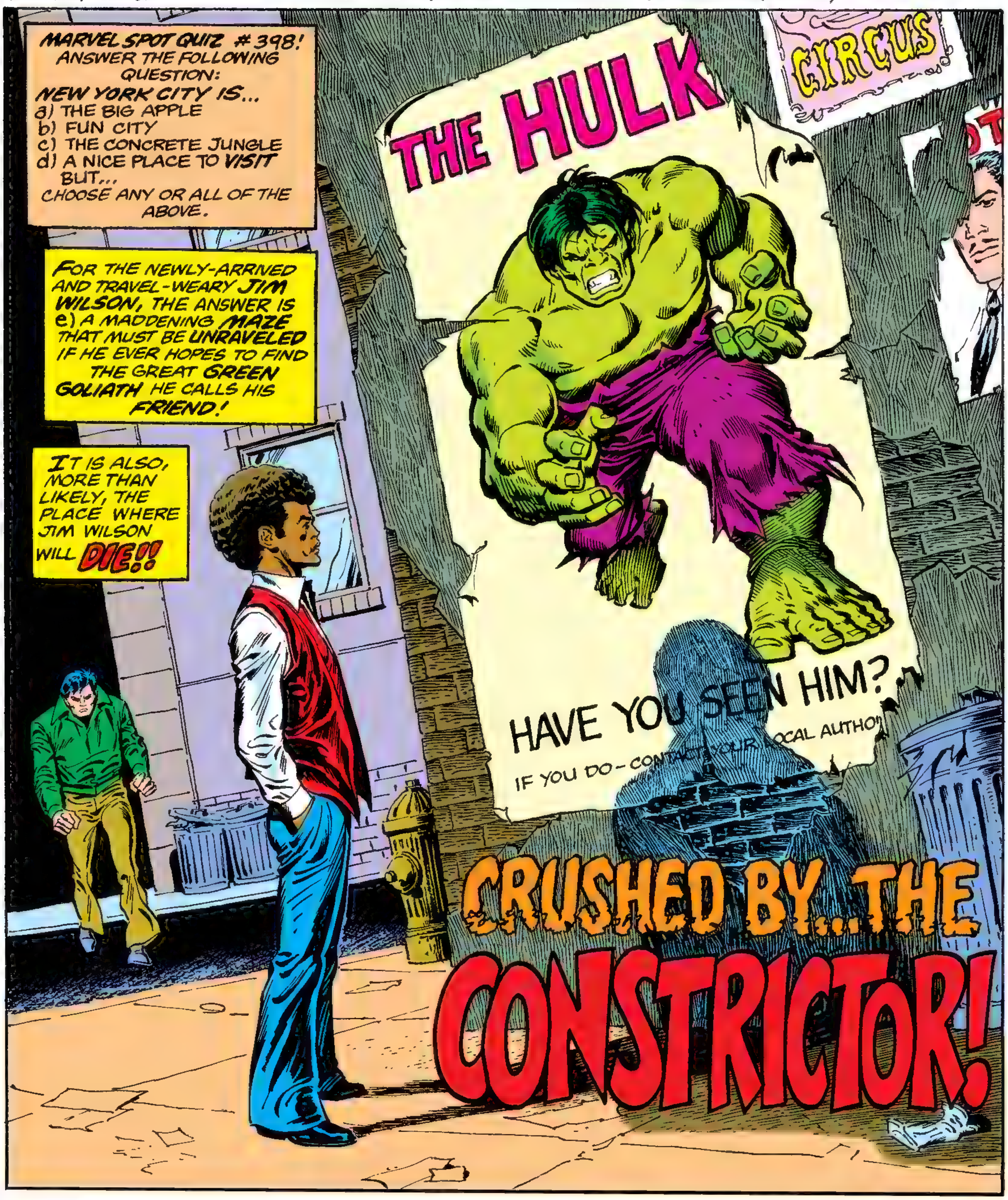

CRUD! WHATEVER MADE ME THINK IT WOULD BE EASY TO FIND MY BIG GREEN BUDDY HERE?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START!

I WOULDN'T WORRY 'BOUT STARTIN' ANYTHING IF I WAS YOU, PUNK!

YOU JUST AIN'T GOT THAT MUCH TIME LEFT!

HUH?

YEP, THIS IS SURE NEW YORK AL' RIGHT! THE MUGGERS CAN'T WAIT T' COME CRAWLIN' OUTTA THE WOODWORK!

SORRY, MAN-- BUT YOU SHOULD'A FOUND YERSELF EASIER PICKIN'S!

GUNFF!!

WHUMP!

OL' JIMBO KNOWS HOW TO HANDLE HISSELF AGAINST CREEPS LIKE...

YEAH, PUNK-- YOU KNOW IT!

UH-OH

LET'S SEE HOW YOU HANDLE YER-SELF AGAINST THIS BLACKJACK!

WELL, BACK IN A LITTLE GHETTO CALLED WATTS, WE LEARNED THAT THE FIRST THING YA DO IN A CASE LIKE THIS IS TO KNOCK THE OTHER GUY OFF-BALANCE...

HEY--!!

KRANG!

...THEN CUT AN' RUN AS FAST AS YOUR LITTLE LEGS CAN CARRY YOU!

WELL, YOU AIN'T GETTIN' FAR, PUNK!

I'M GETTIN' PAID A BUNDLE TO FINISH YOU--

--AN' THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' THAT'S GONNA KEEP ME FROM... HEY!!

BLAGT

THAT CRUMMY TRUCK-- IT CUT ME OFF!!

NICE *TRY*, KID, BUT IT AIN'T GONNA *HELP*...

HUH?

H-HE'S *GONE*... BUT *WHERE?*?

ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT ALL THAT HARD TO GUESS...

CRIPES! I TRAVEL 3000 MILES--AN' THEY'RE *STILL* ON MY CASE!

NOW I'VE *REALLY* GOTTA FIND THE HULK... FOR *BOTH* OUR SAKES!

WHILE, A BLOCK OR TWO AWAY...

N-NOW WHAT DO I DO? I--I'VE *LOST* THAT LITTLE PUNK...

...AND THERE'S NO WAY I CAN FACE THE *BOSS* AGAIN *WITHOUT* HIM!

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING *LEFT* FOR ME--I'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF *TOWN!*

GOTTA PUT AS MUCH *DISTANCE* BETWEEN ME AN' HIM AS I *CAN*, BEFORE HE FINDS OUT...

WHHHHHHH-KSH!

HLRRKK!!

NO! IT-IT'S *TOO LATE!* HE ALREADY *KNOWS!*

BUT *HOW? HOW??*

WHAT KIND OF MONSTER *IS* HE?

DID YOU SAY *MONSTER*, MY FRIEND?

I-I DIDN'T *MEAN* ANYTHIN' BY IT!

N-NO, BOSS-- I'M *SORRY!*

OF COURSE YOU MEANT IT, FOOL--

--AND RIGHTLY SO!

MY WRATH IS MONSTROUS INDEED WHEN I MUST DEAL WITH INCOM-PETENTS!

P-PLEASE, BOSS--NO!

BUT I NEED ONLY TIGHTEN MY GRIP TO ELIMINATE YOUR...

HOW FORTUNATE... FOR YOU!

B-BEFORE I LOST THE KID, I PLANTED THAT TRACER ON HIM-- J-JUST LIKE YA TOLD ME TO!

NOW, IF YOU ARE WISE, FOOL--YOU WILL LEAVE THIS CITY, RATHER THAN LET ME SET EYES ON YOU AGAIN!

IT APPEARS THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOUNG JIM WILSON TO FEEL THE CRUSHING POWER OF... THE CONSTRICTOR!

WHILE, IN A MODEST BOARDING HOUSE ON MANHATTAN'S LOWER EAST SIDE...

ROOMS TO LET

"LORD, AM I BORED!"

THE PRECEDING COMMENTARY COMES TO YOU COURTESY OF ONE RATHER MELANCHOLY DR. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER...

WHAT IN GOD'S GOOD NAME EVER MADE ME THINK I WOULD ENJOY THE SO-CALLED NORMAL LIFE?

I HAVE NO REAL *FRIENDS*... I CAN'T FIND A *JOB*...

...AND I SPEND MOST OF MY TIME STUCK IN AN APARTMENT EVEN A TWO-BIT ROAD-SHOW *MAGICIAN* COULDN'T STAND!

"*THE REAL LIFE IS DEFINITELY NOT* A BOWL OF *CHERRIES*, BRUCE...

"...IT'S A BOWL OF *PITS!*"

POP!

WILTED... EVERY LAST *ONE* OF 'EM!

AND ON *THAT* SORRY NOTE, I REST MY *CASE!*

BRUCE? I HOPE I'M NOT *DISTURBING* YOU, BUT YOUR DOOR WAS *OPEN*...

...AND I THOUGHT WE MIGHT HAVE A LITTLE *TALK!*

APRIL SOMMERS! AND WHAT DOES MY FAVORITE *LANDLADY* WANT WITH...

HEY, YOU LOOK *SERIOUS!* IS SOMETHING *WRONG?*

YES, BRUCE... I'M AFRAID THERE *IS!*

WHEN I *RENTED* YOU THIS FLAT A FEW DAYS BACK, IT WAS MOSTLY ON A *WHIM*.

I REALIZE NOW THAT I KNOW NOTHING *ABOUT* YOU... NOT EVEN YOUR *LAST NAME!*

WHO *ARE* YOU, BRUCE? WHAT ARE YOU ALL *ABOUT?*

SWELL.

WELL, HERE IT *IS*, BRUCE... THE MOMENT YOU'VE BEEN *DREADING!*

EITHER YOU FACE THE MUSIC *NOW*... OR YOU NEVER STOP *RUNNING!*

WHICH WILL IT *BE*, BANNER? *WHICH WILL IT BE?*

OKAY, HERE GOES *NOTHING!*

APRIL, MY NAME IS... *BRUCE BANNER!*

THAT'S A *START*, ANYWAY. GO *ON!*

I'D--AH-- REALLY RATHER *NOT*, APRIL.

WHY? WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO *HIDE?*

IF I TOLD YOU I WAS AN *EX-CONVICT*, WOULD IT MAKE A *DIFFERENCE* IN MY STAYING HERE?

OF *COURSE* NOT! *ARE* YOU AN EX-CON, BRUCE?

NO...BUT I'D *STILL* RATHER KEEP MY PAST MY *OWN*!

SHOULD I START *PACKING*, APRIL?

NO... NOT *YET*.

BUT I'LL TALK TO YOU *AGAIN*, MR. BANNER...

...AND YOU'D BETTER HAVE SOME *ANSWERS*!

GREAT! I REALLY NEEDED THE *THIRD DEGREE* ON TOP OF ALL MY *OTHER* HASSLES!

SO WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO *NOW*?

SEVERAL THOUSAND MILES AWAY, THE SELFSAME QUESTION IS BEING ECHOED BY A CERTAIN MRS. BETTY ROSS TALBOT...

...GIRL *RUNAWAY*!

WELL, SISTER, WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO DO *NOW*?

YOU SAID YOU LEFT *GAMMA BASE* BEHIND SO YOU COULD *FIND* YOURSELF! *

ALL YOU HAVE TO FIGURE OUT *NOW* IS WHERE TO START *LOOKING*!

*LAST ISSUE. --LEN.

BOUTIQUE

AND I JUST MAY HAVE FOUND THE *ANSWER*!

TWO HOURS--AND A PAIR OF SLIGHTLY-HYSTERICAL SALESWOMEN--LATER...

KALL

DRUG TORE

COSMETICS 50% off

SO FAR, SO *GOOD*-- BUT I'M NOWHERE *NEAR* BEING FINISHED YET!

IF I'M GOING TO START MY LIFE *OVER* AGAIN, I'M GOING TO DO IT *RIGHT*!

AND, AT LAST, AT THE CITY'S POSHEST HOTEL...

IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU *WITH* US, MISS CURTIS. HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR *STAY*.

BELIEVE ME, FRIEND-- I INTEND TO ENJOY EVERY *MINUTE* OF IT!

IT REALLY FEELS *STRANGE*, MY BEING *ALONE* LIKE THIS.

IT SEEMS THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN *SOMEONE*... MY DAD... BRUCE BANNER... GLENN... SOMEONE TO *LOOK AFTER* ME.

I SUPPOSE I GOT SO *USED* TO IT, I NEVER LEARNED TO LOOK AFTER *MYSELF*.

BUT THAT'S *OVER* NOW-- *FINISHED*! YESTERDAY WAS MY PERSONAL *FOURTH OF JULY!*

THE DAY I DECLARED MY *INDE-PENDENCE!*

I FELT *AWFUL* LEAVING GAMMA BASE THE WAY I *DID*--

-- IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, WITH ONLY A *NOTE* TO SAY GOOD-BYE--

--BUT THAT WAS THE WAY IT HAD TO *BE!*

YOU DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY *CHOICE* WHEN YOU'RE THE DAUGHTER OF *GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS!*

IF I'D TRIED TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO DADDY *FACE-TO-FACE*, HE'D HAVE FOUND SOME WAY TO TALK ME OUT OF IT! I JUST *KNOW* HE WOULD!

LORD, I'M SO FRIGHTENED OF MY FATHER'S *INFLUENCE*, I EVEN REGISTER-ED IN THIS HOTEL UNDER AN *ASSUMED NAME*...

...SO HE COULDN'T TRACK ME *DOWN!*

NOT THAT HE'D EVEN *RECOGNIZE* ME ANYMORE IF HE *FOUND* ME!

THE MOUSY LITTLE BETTY ROSS *HE* KNEW IS GONE *FOR GOOD*...

...DEAD AND BURIED IN AN *UNMARKED GRAVE!*

SO *LOOK OUT*, WORLD--

--'CAUSE THERE'S A WHOLE *NEW BETTY ROSS* COMING YOUR WAY!!

WHILE, IN NEW YORK...
THE WAY I BEEN ZIGGIN' AN' ZAGGIN', AIN'T NO WAY THAT DUDE COULD STILL BE FOLLOWIN' ME!
BUT I CAN'T KEEP GOIN' IT ALONE!
PLEASE, MA BELL--IF YOU GOT ANY SENSE 'A MERCY AT ALL, HELP ME CONNECT WITH MY BIG GREEN BUDDY!
TELEPHONE
NOTHIN'...BUT THEN, DOC BANNER AIN'T BEEN IN TOWN LONG ENOUGH TO BE LISTED IN THE PHONE BOOK YET!
I'LL HAVE TO TRY INFORMATION.
YEAH. HELLO. I'M... AH... LOOKIN' FOR THE NUMBER FOR A DR. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER.
IT'S PROB'BLY A NEW LISTING SO...
NOTHIN', HUH?
THEN WOULD'JA CHECK UNDER JUST BRUCE BANNER?
STILL NOTHIN'? OH, MAN!
THEN HOW 'BOUT TRYIN'... ER... BRUCE ROBERTS?
WHAT...?
NO, I AIN'T PLAYIN' GAMES, LADY! YEAH, I KNOW YOUR TIME IS IMPORTANT...
...BUT, SISTER, THIS IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO ME!
HUH?
Y-YOU'VE FOUND THE NUMBER? IT'S WHAT?
YEAH, GOT IT. HEY, SORRY FOR THE HASSLES...
...AND THANKS.
MOMENTS LATER...
WHO? JIM WILSON?!?
WHERE ARE YOU CALLING FROM, SON? HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
AIN'T GOT TIME TO GO INTO THAT NOW, DOC--BUT I'M IN TOWN, AND I NEED YOUR HELP!
I'M DOWN IN THE VILLAGE, AT THE CORNER OF MERCER AND 8TH! CAN YOU MEET ME AT...
HUH?
JIM? WHAT'S GOING ON THERE?
WHAT'S THAT HORRIBLE SOUND?
JIM? JIM??
WE WERE CUT OFF! GOT TO GET DOWN TO THE VILLAGE-- AND FAST!
I OWE JIM WILSON MY LIFE... AND NOW IS THE TIME TO REPAY HIM!

AND, ON A SPECIAL SHIELD TANKER SOMEWHERE OUT AT SEA...

TAKE IT EASY WITH THAT BABY, BUBBALA.

JUST HOIST AWAY AND STOP TEARING WHAT'S LEFT OF YOUR HAIR OUT, GAFFER.

WE'RE NOT GOING TO DAMAGE YOUR PRECIOUS LITTLE PACKAGE!

NOTHING PERSONAL, BOYCHIK. IT'S JUST THAT WHEN SIDNEY E. LEVINE TAKES ON A JOB, HE LIKES TO DO IT RIGHT...

...OR HE DON'T LIKE TO DO IT AT ALL!

MAN, YOU TREAT THAT CYLINDER LIKE IT WAS FULL OF DIAMONDS OR SOMETHING, GAFFER.

THAT'S JUST IT--WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S FULL OF...

...AND I'M TAKIN' NO CHANCES TILL I FIND OUT!

THERE! THE CAPSULE'S ON BOARD!

I'D BETTER CALL FURY--AND TELL HIM.

SHIELD'S TOPKICK DON'T LIKE TO BE KEPT WAITIN'!

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, NICKY. THE CAPSULE'S SAFE AND SOUND...

...BUT IT'S STILL EMITTING THE GAMMA RADIATION THAT LED US TO IT IN THE FIRST PLACE!

THEN YA'D BETTER GET IT UP TO THE HELI-CARRIER, AND CONTACT GAMMA BASE!

THEY'RE S'POSED TA BE THE EXPERTS ON GAMMA RADIATION.

HAVE 'EM SEND A FEW OF THEIR BOYS UP TO EXAMINE THE CAPSULE!

YOU'RE THE BOSS, NICKY--ANYTHING YOU SAY!

I'M SIGNING OFF NOW, BOYCHIK. SEE YOU SOON!

TIME-DISSOLVE: TO A SCENE WE HAVE ALREADY WITNESSED--JIM WILSON, ALONE IN A PUBLIC PHONE BOOTH...

...I'M IN TOWN, AND I NEED YOUR HELP!

I'M DOWN IN THE VILLAGE, AT THE CORNER OF MERCER AND 8TH! CAN YOU MEET ME AT...

HUH?

NOW WITNESS WHAT HAPPENED NEXT!

SKRAKKK!

WHAT IN SAM HILL--?!?

WHHHH-KSH!

NOT WHAT, YOUNG MAN--WHO!

YOU HAVE BEEN CREATING A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE FOR MY EMPLOYER ON THE WEST COAST...

WHHHH-

KSH!

HOLY CATS!!

...AND THE CONSTRICTOR IS HERE TO PUT AN END TO IT!!

THRAK

NOW--BEFORE HE CAN CRACK THOSE CRAZY WHIPS AT ME AGAIN--

--I'VE GOTTA MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!

YOU YOUNG FOOL!

NOTHING THAT LIVES CAN ESCAPE MY FAR-REACHING...

CURSE IT! HE KICKED THAT TRASH CAN INTO MY PATH!

THRANG!

THAT KIND 'A STUNT 'LL ONLY WORK ONCE AGAINST A DUDE LIKE HIM!

THE ONLY CHANCE I'VE GOT NOW...

...IS TO TRY AN' LOSE MYSELF IN THIS ABANDONED BUILDIN'!

FOR A TIME, HE FINDS SHELTER IN A HIDDEN CRAWLSPACE ON THE BUILDING'S UPPERMOST FLOOR, THEN THE SOUNDS OF FRANTIC SEARCHING FADE INTO SILENCE...

...AND A TREMBLING JIM WILSON HESITANTLY SNEAKS BACK DOWN TO THE FRONT DOOR...

...PEERS CAUTIOUSLY OUT INTO THE STREET...

...AND DISCOVERS HIS SNAKE-GARBED PURSUER HAS GONE!

GOTTA GET AWAY FROM HERE--FAST!

BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, THE CONSTRICTOR HAS NOT GONE VERY FAR!

UUNNGGHH!!

SHRAK

FOOL, DID YOU TRULY BELIEVE I WOULD LEAVE HERE WITHOUT YOU?

WHEN THE CONSTRICTOR ACCEPTS A CONTRACT, MY FRIEND--

--HE ALWAYS FULFILLS IT!

WHILE, HALF A BLOCK AWAY...

THAT'LL BE FOUR-FIFTY, MAC.

HERE! YOU CAN KEEP THE CHANGE, DRI...

DEAR LORD! THAT PHONE BOOTH--!

YEAH. AIN'T IT A SHAME THE WAY THEM KIDS TREAT PUBLIC PROPERTY?

LOOK AT THIS MESS! WHAT HAPPENED HERE? THIS HAS TO BE THE SPOT JIM CALLED ME FROM--

--BUT WHERE IN GOD'S NAME IS...

TELEPHONE

EH?

IT'S JIM-- BEING DRAGGED INTO A CAR BY... BY WHO?

DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE-- BUT IT'S TIME I FOUND OUT!

HEY! HEY, YOU! HEY, YOU IN THE SEDAN!

HOLD ON A SECOND, FELLA!

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!

WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND, LAD, IS WHY YOU BOTHERED LEAVING LOS ANGELES!

YOU MERELY COST ME THAT MUCH EXTRA TIME AND TROUBLE, FOR WHICH I INTEND TO REPAY YOU IN...

...WHAT?

HOLD UP, BLAST IT! STOP-- OR I'LL CALL THE POLICE!

THE FOOL! BY STANDING IN MY WAY, HE HAS SIGNED HIS OWN DEATH WARRANT!

H-HE ISN'T EVEN SLOWING DOWN!

HE MUST BE MAD! HE'S PLANNING TO HIT ME!

I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT INTERLOPER IS...

...NOR DO I VERY MUCH CARE!

I KNOW ONLY THAT HE DARED TO INTERFERE WITH THE CONSTRICTOR...

...AND FOR THAT, HE MUST SUFFER THE...

NO!

THE MAN HAS BECOME... A MONSTER!

ONLY MY SNAKE-LIKE SPEED CAN SAVE ME NOW!

SKRA-KROOM!

SO! ONCE AGAIN PUNY HUMANS ATTACK HULK WITH THEIR PUNY MACHINES--

--ONLY TO HAVE THEIR MACHINES DESTROYED!!

JUST AS HULK WILL DESTROY YOU, SNAKE-MAN!

SO YOU ARE THE HULK, EH? I HAVE HEARD OF YOU, MONSTER!

AND I DO NOT FEAR YOU!

THEN SNAKE-MAN IS A FOOL! YOU TRIED TO KILL HULK, SNAKE-MAN, AND FOR THAT, HULK WILL...

UUNNHH!!

HUH? THERE IS ANOTHER PUNY HUMAN STILL INSIDE BROKEN CAR?!?

H-HEY, HULK OL' BUDDY... L-LONG TIME... N-NO SEE.

YOU?! HULK KNOWS YOU, LITTLE ONE!

YOU ARE... YOU ARE...

YOU ARE HULK'S FRIEND.. JIM!

RIGHT ON.

HOLD ON, JIM! HULK WILL GET YOU OUT OF BROKEN CAR--

--LIKE THIS!!

KRRIPP!

TH-THANKS OL' BUDDY... I--I KNEW YA WOULDN'T FAIL ME.

BUT I... I THOUGHT MY GOOSE W-WAS GOOD AN' COOKED THERE FOR A MINUTE.

HUH? HULK DOESN'T UNDERSTAND! WHAT DOES JIM MEAN?

THAT GUY OVER THERE IN THE SNAKE-SKIN SUIT--THE CONSTRICTOR!

SOMEBODY PAID HIM TO KILL ME, HULK--TO PUT ME SIX FEET UNDER!

AN ASSIGNMENT I *STILL* INTEND TO *CARRY OUT!*

FOR YEARS, I HAVE BEEN THE WORLD'S FOREMOST *ASSASSIN*, FULFILLING MY CONTRACTS UNSEEN, *UNDISCOVERED!*

YOU HAVE FORCED ME TO COME INTO THE *OPEN* FOR THE FIRST TIME, YOUNG MAN-- AND NOW YOU MUST PAY THE *PRICE!*

BAH! YOU STAY *HERE*, JIM!

HULK WILL DEAL WITH *SNAKE-MAN!*

B-BE *CAREFUL*, BIG BUDDY.

JIM WILSON IS HULK'S *FRIEND*, SNAKE-MAN! HULK DOES NOT HAVE *MANY* FRIENDS--

--AND HULK WILL DO ANYTHING TO *PROTECT* THEM!

GO *AWAY*, SNAKE-MAN-- OR HULK WILL *SMASH!*

I ALREADY TOLD YOU *ONCE*, MONSTER --I AM NOT *AFRAID* OF YOU!

THEN HULK WILL *CRUSH* SNAKE-MAN LIKE A...

HUH?

THE CONSTRICTOR IS NO *ORDINARY* MAN, HULK! MY SPEED AND AGILITY ARE FAR *GREATER* THAN THOSE OF ANY *REPTILE!*

UUNNGG!!

WHHHH-KSH!

AND THE RETRACTABLE *WHIPS* AT MY WRISTS, FORGED OF *ADAMANTIUM ALLOY--*

--ARE CAPABLE OF *HUMBLING* EVEN *YOU!*

WHHHH-KSH!

AARRGGHH!

HULK'S *EYES*-- THEY *STING*-- THEY *BURN!*

YOU HAVE *BLINDED* HULK, SNAKE-MAN...

...BUT HULK DOES NOT HAVE TO *SEE* YOU TO *SMASH* YOU!

SKRAK!

PERHAPS *NOT*, MONSTER-- BUT IT WOULD CERTAINLY *HELP!*

YOUR *AIM* IS THE EQUAL OF YOUR *GRAMMAR*-- SIMPLY *TERRIBLE!*

GO ON, SNAKE-MAN, KEEP *TAUNTING* HULK--KEEP *LAUGHING* AT HULK!

KEEP *TALKING*, SNAKE-MAN, SO HULK CAN *FOLLOW* YOUR VOICE-- TO *YOU!*

RATHER THE RAGING *BULL*... AREN'T YOU, MAN-BRUTE?

A MINDLESS *ANIMAL*, SEEKING A *VICTORY* YOU CAN NEVER *ATTAIN!*

BAH! HULK WILL SHOW YOU VICTORY, SNAKE-MAN!

WHEN HULK GETS HULK'S *HANDS* ON YOU, HULK WILL....

AARRGGHH!!

WTOOM!

YOU HAVE *TRICKED* HULK, SNAKE-MAN-- BUT YOU HAVE NOT *BEATEN* HULK!

AN EASY ENOUGH OVERSIGHT TO *CORRECT*, MONSTER!

FOR THIS CHARADE HAS BEGUN TO *BORE* ME!

MY WHIPS *ALONE* COULD FINISH YOU *EVENTUALLY*, MONSTER-- FOR ADAMANTIUM IS THE ONE METAL EVEN *YOU* CANNOT DESTROY--BUT I HAVE NO MORE TIME TO *WASTE!*

THUS I SHALL PUT AN *END* TO THIS BATTLE--

WHAM-KA-SH

"--BY *ELECTRIFYING* MY COILS TO A *KILLING VOLTAGE!*"

A MOMENT *LONGER*, HULK, AND YOU WILL BE...

NO!

HULK DOES NOT *KNOW* WHETHER OR NOT HULK CAN BREAK *COILS*, SNAKE-MAN--

--BUT THERE IS ONE THING HULK *DOES* KNOW!

AARRGGHH!!

HULK CAN BREAK *YOU*, SNAKE-MAN!

HULK CAN BREAK YOU!!

KWHAMM!

ELECTRICITY *CLEARED* HULK'S *EYES*, SNAKE-MAN! HULK CAN *SEE* AGAIN, AND HULK CAN...

HUH?

THAT'S *RIGHT*, MONSTER! STAND RIGHT WHERE YOU *ARE!*

TAKE ONE MORE STEP *TOWARDS* ME--AND I'LL *SNAP* THE BOY'S *NECK* LIKE A *TWIG!*

N-NO! DON'T *LISTEN* TO 'IM, HULK--!

LET GO OF HULK'S *FRIEND*, SNAKE-MAN!

LET GO--OR HULK WILL *SMASH!!*

THROOM!

BUT THE **SHOCK-WAVE** GENERATED BY THE GREEN GOLIATH'S FRUSTRATED **POUNDING** DOES FAR **MORE** TO SEPERATE JIM AND THE CONSTRICTOR THAN ALL HIS EMPTY **THREATS!**

HUHN?!?

CURSE YOU, MONSTER! NEVER BEFORE HAVE I BEEN *THWARTED* THUS!

WHHH-KSH!!

I'LL **KILL** YOU FOR THIS, DO YOU **HEAR** ME?

I'LL KILL YOU!!

BUT DESPITE HIS MINISCULE **INTELLECT**, THE HULK IS NO **FOOL!** HE **KNOWS** THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF HIS ADVERSARY'S SLASHING **WRIST-WHIPS!**

THUS, AT THE LAST POSSIBLE INSTANT, HE **DUCKS**...

THAK!

...AND THE ELECTRIFIED COILS SINK DEEP INTO A NEARBY LAMPPOST'S **POWER LINES** INSTEAD!

FOR A MOMENT, EVERY **STREET LAMP** WITHIN A THREE BLOCK RADIUS GLOWS **BRIGHTLY** WITH THE CONSTRICTOR'S **POWER**...

...UNTIL, **SLOWLY**...

...ONE BY ONE...

...THE LAMPS GO **OUT!**

AND, HIS COSTUME'S INTERNAL **POWER PACK** COMPLETELY DRAINED, THE CONSTRICTOR GOES OUT **WITH** THEM!

DID SNAKE-MAN *HURT* YOU, JIM?

NO, BIG BUDDY. I... I'M **OKAY**... I GUESS.

Y'KNOW WHAT THE *FUNNIEST* PART IS, HULK?

NO, JIM...**WHAT?**

I CAME TO NEW YORK TO HELP **YOU!**

NEXT ISSUE: YOU JUST DON'T QUARREL WITH THE **QUANTRONIC MAN!**

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YOU JUST DON'T QUARREL WITH THE QUINTRONIC MAN!

THE PRECEDING TITLE HAS BEEN A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY!

SPWAK

SPWEE

SPING

SPOW

LEAVE HULK ALONE, LITTLE MEN-- OR HULK WILL SMASH!!

BUT, UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF A WILDLY-FIRING SQUAD OF NEW YORK CITY **POLICEMEN,** NOBODY EVER INFORMED THEM THAT THE ***SAME*** ADMONITION SHOULD APPLY WHEN YOU ARE DEALING WITH A CERTAIN **GREEN GOLIATH!**

...AN OVERSIGHT WHICH MAY SOON COST THESE VALIANT LAWMEN THE USE OF THEIR ENTIRE BODIES!

HULK WILL NOT WARN YOU AGAIN, PUNY HUMANS-- GO AWAY!

OUR SLUGS DON'T EVEN MAKE HIM FLINCH!

WE'D BETTER FALL BACK!!

MAYBE YOU GUYS CAN RUN OUT ON YOUR DUTY--

--BUT BURT KELSO IS GONNA MAKE A NAME FOR HIMSELF IN THIS DEPARTMENT!

I'M GONNA BRING THAT MONSTER DOWN!!

BLAM!

LITTLE MAN, YOU HAVE MADE HULK MAD!!

B-B-BUT MY GUN--IT'S GOTTA STOP YOU!!

BLAM!

BLAM!

IT'S JUST GOTTA!!

BAH! HULK IS TIRED OF PUNY LITTLE GUNS!

STRUNCH

OH... NO.

AND, LITTLE MAN, HULK IS TIRED OF YOU!!

NO, BIG BUDDY --DON'T HIT HIM! YOU'LL KILL HIM!!

PUT HIM DOWN, HULK-- PUT HIM DOWN!!

BUT THIS PUNY HUMAN AND THE OTHERS TRIED TO SHOOT HULK, JIM... TRIED TO HURT HULK... AND YOU! WHY SHOULD HULK... HUH?

HULK HEARS MORE OF LITTLE MEN'S MACHINES-- COMING THIS WAY!

IT'S SOME SORT'A ARMORED TRUCK, HULK.

THEY'RE BRINGIN' UP THE HEAVY ARTILLERY!

IT COMES RUMBLING DOWN THE STREET LIKE A **TANK** ROLLING ACROSS A **BATTLE-GROUND**, ITS SIDES EMBLAZONED WITH A MOST FAMILIAR **NAME**.

STARK INTERNATIONAL

THERE'S OUR **TARGET**-- STRAIGHT **AHEAD!**

THE MASSIVE VEHICLE SQUEALS TO A HALT, ITS FLANKS ABRUPTLY UNFOLDING LIKE THE **PETALS** OF SOME GROTESQUE **FLOWER**-- TO REVEAL A GOLDEN **MONSTROSITY** LYING WITHIN!

THEN, WITH SURPRISING **GRACE**, THE MONSTROSITY **RISES**... AND **SPEAKS**

ALL SYSTEMS ARE **OPERATIVE!** ALL LIGHTS ARE **GREEN!**

THEN WHAT ARE WE **WAITIN'** FER, AMIGO? LET'S SEE US SOME **ACTION!**

BETTER **CALM DOWN**, COWBOY! REMEMBER, WE'RE TESTING A PIECE OF **MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR MERCHANDISE!**

SO LET'S GET **STARTED!** LET'S SHOW THAT MONSTER WHAT IT'S LIKE TO **TANGLE** WITH--**THE QUINTRONIC MAN!**

SEVERAL THOUSAND MILES AWAY, IN THE HARSH NEW MEXICAN DESERT, STANDS THE SEMI-SECRET PARA-MILITARY INSTALLATION CODE-NAMED GAMMA BASE--

--CURRENT QUARTERS OF A FIGURE AS EQUALLY ENIGMATIC AS THE QUINTRONIC MAN!

HIS NAME? FRANKLY, THAT'S A VERY GOOD QUESTION...

... AND IT IS ONE HE HAS BEEN ASKING HIMSELF FOR FAR TOO LONG A TIME!

THIS EQUIPMENT IS ALMOST... FAMILIAR.

IT'S AS IF SOME VOICE DEEP INSIDE ME WAS TRYING...TO TELL ME SOMETHING.

WHY CAN'T I ESCAPE THE FEELING THERE IS SOMETHING I'VE COME HERE TO DO? SOMETHING THAT I MUST...

ANYTHING IN HERE RING A BELL, FRIEND?

WHO--?

OH...IT'S YOU.

SORRY. DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU.

BUT YOU SHOULDN'T BE AROUND ALL THIS DELICATE EQUIPMENT BY YOURSELF.

FORGIVE ME. SOMETHING DREW ME HERE, AND I THOUGHT PERHAPS...

PERHAPS IT MIGHT JAR YOUR MEMORY? I UNDERSTAND.

REMEMBER, BEFORE I BECAME DOC SAMSON, THE SUPER-HERO--I WAS PLAIN LEONARD SAMSON, THE PSYCHIATRIST!

THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T ANSWER SHIELD'S CALL ALONG WITH ROSS AND QUARTERMAIN. I WANT TO DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP YOU!

THANK YOU. I...I APPRECIATE THAT.

THEN COME ON! LET'S GET CRACKING! WE HAVEN'T LEARNED A THING ABOUT YOU SINCE YOU CAME STAGGERING IN OUT OF THE DESERT! *

AND IT'S TIME WE STARTED TO FIND OUT EVERYTHING!!

* BACK IN HULK #208. --LEN.

WHILE, BACK IN MANHATTAN...

SEAL PROTECT-PODS! ACTIVATE TELE-SCANNERS!

BAH! METAL MAN IS NO THREAT TO HULK!

METAL MAN IS ONLY PUNY ROBOT!!

AND HULK HAS SMASHED PUNY ROBOTS BEFORE!!

PERHAPS, MONSTER--BUT YOU HAVE NEVER FACED A ROBOT WHO WAS OUR EQUAL!

WELL DONE, RIGHT LEG!

PLOW!

"WILL YOU PLEASE STOP DEHUMANIZING US, HEAD MAN? MY NAME IS VAN DYKE!"

"OF COURSE. NO OFFENSE INTENDED... VAN DYKE!"

KROOM!

IT APPEARS WE HAVE DE-FEATED THE HULK WITH OUR FIRST BLOW!

PREPARE TO APPREHEND...

"WAIT! THE MAN-BRUTE IS STILL CONSCIOUS!"

"AND, BOSS MAN, HE'S LOOKIN' MIGHTY MAD!"

NO ONE CAN KICK HULK LIKE THAT! NO ONE!!

ROBOT, HULK WILL TEAR YOU APART!!

THE MONSTER IS LEAPING RIGHT FOR OUR HEAD!

LEFT ARM-- PROTECT ME!!

NOTHING CAN PROTECT YOU FROM HULK, ROBOT!

ONCE AGAIN, YOU *UNDER-ESTIMATE* US, HULK!

THE QUINTRONIC MAN WAS DESIGNED FOR USE IN *INTERSTELLAR EXPLORATION!* ITS POWER IS ALMOST *INCAL-CULABLE!*

SWAK!

BUT WHILE YOU'RE BUSY *JAWIN';* AMIGO-- *WE'RE* DOIN' ALL THE *WORK!*

I FELT THE *IMPACT* O' THAT SLAP PLUMB *THRU* MAH PADDED INSULATION!

BAH! ROBOT THINKS IT IS *BETTER* JUST BECAUSE IT STANDS *TALLER* THAN HULK!

SKRAK!

SKRAK!

BUT HULK KNOWS HOW TO *FIX* THAT!

THERE, ROBOT! *NOW* WHO IS TALLER?

WHRUNCH!

GYROSCOPES *AKILTER!* CAN'T STAY *ERECT!*

BUT IN *TOPPLING* US, MAN-BRUTE, YOU HAVE ENGINEERED YOUR OWN *DEFEAT*

WHROOSH!

LEGS, ACTIVATE THE *RETRO-ROCKETS* DESIGNED FOR SHORT-DISTANCE *FLIGHT* ON ALIEN WORLDS!

IN AN INSTANT, THE GREEN GOLIATH IS ENVELOPED IN INCENDIARY FURY...

AARRGGHH!

...AND, ON THE SIDEWALK, YOUNG **JIM WILSON**, THE MAN-BRUTE'S CLOSEST **FRIEND**, WATCHES THE BATTLE--

--WITH HIS **HEART** BALLED UP IN HIS **THROAT!**

YOU'VE GOTTA **STOP** THEM--BEFORE IT'S **TOO LATE!!**

DON'T YOU **UNDER-STAND?**

THEY'RE **KILLIN'** HIM!!

WHILE, ACROSS TOWN, IN THE BOARDING HOUSE APARTMENT OF **APRIL SOMMERS**, LANDLADY OF A CERTAIN **ROBERT BRUCE BANNER**...

AND HERE IS A LATE-BREAKING REPORT FROM **ON-THE-SPOT NEWS!**

SWELL. **NOW** WHAT?

THE NEAR-MINDLESS MAN-BRUTE CALLED THE **HULK**, WHO FOR SOME INEXPLICABLE REASON HAS CHOSEN TO MAKE OUR CITY HIS NEW **HOME**, IS ON THE RAMPAGE ONCE MORE...

...BATTLING BOTH THE NEW YORK **POLICE** AND THE SCIENTIFIC RESOURCES OF **STARK INTER-NATIONAL!**

THE HULK, AS SOME OF YOU MAY RECALL, IS THE **OTHER** IDENTITY OF FAMED NUCLEAR PHYSICIST...

HUH? SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE GOING UP THE **STAIRS!**

MUST BE **BRUCE BANNER** COMING HOME...

...AND I TOLD HIM I WANTED SOME **ANSWERS** FROM HIM BEFORE HE COULD...

OH.

TH-THERE'S NOBODY **THERE!** BUT I COULD HAVE **SWORN...!**

HMPH, GUESS MY **IMAGINATION** WAS RUNNING A LITTLE **WILD**, THANKS TO THAT **NEWS REPORT!**

...AND POLICE OFFICIALS EXPECT AN EARLY **CAPTURE!** THIS HAS BEEN **ON-THE-SPOT NEWS!**

WELL, SO MUCH FOR **SLEEPING** TONIGHT.

AND, IN A PARTICULARLY SLEAZY UNDERWORLD HANGOUT...

OKAY, I'VE LAID OUT THE ENTIRE CAPER FOR YOU GUYS.

YOU UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO, EDDIE?

EDDIE?

HEY, EDDIE! WILL YOU TURN OFF THAT BOOB TUBE--AND PAY SOME ATTENTION TO BUSINESS!

AH, HOLD IT DOWN, WILL YA? HOW D'YA EXPECT ME TO HEAR THIS NEWSFLASH IF YA...

KNOCK! KNOCK!

HUH? THERE'S SOMEBODY AT THE DOOR!

B-BUT WHO--?!?

WELL, IT SURE ISN'T OPPORTUNITY KNOCKING, PUNKS!

SKRA-KOOM!

HOLY CRUD! IT'S ONE 'A THEM SUPER-HERO CREEPS!

FOR THE RECORD, TURKEY, THE NAME IS--JACK OF HEARTS!

IT'S A NAME YOU'RE GOING TO REMEMBER BEFORE I'M THRU HERE!!

JACK 'A HEARTS, HUH? I HEARD 'A HIM! HE WAS MIXED UP WITH THAT WHITE TIGER FRACAS A FEW MONTHS BACK!*

WELL, I DON'T WANT HIM MIXED UP WITH US!

GUN HIM, YOU IDIOTS-- NOW!!

* AS SHOWN IN THE LATE, LAMENTED DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU MAG. -- LEN.

GO AHEAD, PUNKS-- GRAB YOUR WEAPONS! YOU CAN EVEN TRY AIMING THEM...

...BUT YOU WON'T BE IN ANY CONDITION TO PULL THE TRIGGERS!

IT WAS SCUM LIKE YOU WHO SHOT DOWN MY FATHER*--

--AND I'VE JUST BEGUN TO EVEN THE SCORE!!

*AS SEEN IN DEADLY HANDS #23. --LEN.

THEN IT'S TOO BAD YA MISSED ME, JOKER--

--'CAUSE I AIN'T GONNA MISS YOU!!

YEAH, YOU'RE SURE LUCKY, ANIMAL...

...LUCKY I DON'T JUST KILL YOU!!

SHHH-RAK!

THE POLICE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR THESE PUNKS--SO I'LL JUST LEAVE THEM WHERE THEY CAN BE FOUND!

THEN I MIGHT AS WELL... EH?

...REPEAT, THE HULK IS ON THE RAMPAGE ONCE MORE!

CITIZENS ARE ADVISED TO STAY INSIDE UNTIL FURTHER...

HMMM...

WELL, JACK, YOU WANTED TO BE IN THE SUPER-HERO GAME...

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO PROVE YOU BELONG IN IT!

SO WATCH OUT, HULK--I'M COMING YOUR WAY.

IF ANYONE CAN STOP YOU, IT'S JACK OF HEARTS!!

WHILE...

HOO-WEEE, BOSS MAN-- WE DID IT! WE TOOK THAT GREEN GALOOT!

SO IT WOULD APPEAR, STETSON!

HULK? HULK!!

BIG BUDDY, WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YA?

BAH! ROBOT'S FIRE COULD NOT HURT HULK--

--BUT FIRE MELTED PUNY STREET!

MAYBE ROBOT THOUGHT MELTED STREET WOULD HOLD HULK, BUT NOW HULK IS GOING TO...

AARRGGHH!

BROK!

YOU'RE NOT GONNA DO ANY-THING, GREEN-SKIN...

...EXCEPT MAYBE DIE!!

McCORD, YOU'RE ACTING WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION!

STOP IT, DO YOU HEAR ME-- STOP IT!!

THWUD!

YOU HOMICIDAL MANIAC, DO YOU SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE?

I WARNED TONY STARK YOU WERE A POOR RISK--THAT YOU'D LET THIS POWER GO TO YOUR HEAD--!

BUT WE GOT CALLED IN TO HELP OUT THE COPS BEFORE STARK COULD REPLACE ME--

--SO THERE AIN'T NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT, IS THERE?

NO, BUT IT'S A SHAME THOUGH. ALL THOSE MONTHS THEY SPENT TRAINING US TO ACT AS A SINGLE UNIT...

...WASTED BECAUSE OF ONE BAD APPLE!

BAH! CRAZY ROBOT *TALKS* TO ITSELF IN DIFFERENT *VOICES*--

--BUT ROBOT'S TRICK WILL NOT *CONFUSE* HULK!

POW!

HULK WILL *SMASH* ROBOT--AND BE *DONE* WITH IT!!

TH-THIS IS *YOUR* FAULT, McCORD! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET YOU *DISTRACT* ME!

QUICKLY, McCORD-- STETSON! FIRE YOUR *CONCUSSION-CHARGES*!!

HAH! NOW *THIS* HULK *UNDER-STANDS!* ROBOT IS *SHOOTING* AT HULK--LIKE SOME PUNY *HUMAN!*

BUT ROBOT'S SHOOTING WILL NOT KEEP HULK *AWAY* FROM ROBOT!

KEEP *FIRING*, ARMS-- *KEEP FIRING!!*

ANYTHING YOU *SAY*, BOSS MAN!

BUT *NOW* WHO'S THE HOMICIDAL MANIAC?

SPOW!

SPOW!

HULK IS *COMING* FOR YOU, ROBOT-- TO *CRUSH* YOU INTO *SCRAP!!*

YOU *ATTACKED* HULK--AND NOW YOU MUST *PAY!!*

THE CONCUSSION-CHARGES BARELY *FAZE* THE BRUTE!

HAVE TO ACTIVATE THE *SOMNA GAS TANKS* WE INSTALLED-- *NOW!!*

FWHISSSH!

NO! IT IS NOT *FAIR!!*

HULK CAN BEAT *ANYTHING*-- *ANY-THING!!*

ANYTHING...

...EXCEPT...

...THE...

...GAS...

HIGH ABOVE US ALL HOVERS WHAT IS POSSIBLY THE **GREATEST** SINGLE PRODUCT OF STARK INTERNATIONAL'S SCIENTIFIC **GENIUS**--

--THE HELI-CARRIER HEAD-QUARTERS OF **SHIELD**...

...AND IT IS **HERE** WE FIND THE FEW REMAINING **MEMBERS** OF THIS ISSUE'S **CAST.**

FEELS GOOD TO BE "**HOME**" AGAIN, GAFFER.

JUST SO LONG AS YOU REMEMBER YOU'RE HERE ON **BUSINESS**, CLAY BOYCHIK.

WE CALLED YOU AND **GENERAL ROSS** HERE AS **CONSULTANTS**, NOT GUESTS.

AND I SUPPOSE **THIS** IS THE **CAPSULE** YOU WANTED US TO LOOK AT, EH?

THAT'S THE **ONE**, GENERAL --OR SHOULD I MAYBE CALL YOU "**THUNDER-BOLT**"? WE FISHED IT OUTTA THE **OCEAN** OURSELVES*...

*LAST ISSUE. --LEN.

...BUT WE FIGURED, SEEING HOW IT WAS GIVING OFF **GAMMA RADIATION** AND ALL, WE'D CALL IN YOU **GAMMA BASE GONIFFS** AND GET YOUR EXPERT **OPINION** ON WHAT MAKES IT **TICK!**

ANY LUCK **OPENING** IT YET, BENSON?

NONE, GAFFER, THERE'S NOT A **SEAM**-- NOT A **CRACK!**

IT'S LIKE TRYING TO OPEN A **BOWLING BALL** WITH A **NUT-CRACKER!**

SO LISTEN, WHY DON'T YOU ALL TAKE A **BREAK** THEN?

MAYBE WE CAN **ALL** COME BACK TO IT **FRESHER** LATER ON.

GOOD **IDEA**, GAFF. THAT'LL GIVE THE GENERAL AND ME A CHANCE TO CHECK YOUR **NOTES** ON THE CAPSULE.

ONE BY ONE, THE TOPNOTCH SHIELD* TECHNICIANS FILE **OUT** OF THE LAB, LEAVING THEIR MYSTERIOUS PACKAGE UNGUARD-ED AND **ALONE**...

*THAT'S **SUPREME** **HEAD**-QUARTERS, **INTERNATIONAL** **ESPIONAGE** **LAW**-ENFORCMENT **DIVISION**, IN CASE YOU DIDN'T **KNOW.** --LIVELY LEN.

FOR A TIME, THE CHAMBER IS **SILENT**, THEN A FAINT METALLIC **HISS** CAN BE **HEARD** AS THE CAPSULE CRACKS **OPEN.**

IF, THAT IS, THERE WAS ANYBODY THERE TO **HEAR!**

BUT, BACK IN GREENWICH VILLAGE...

EASY WITH HIM, MEN! FOR PITY'S SAKE-- DON'T DROP HIM!

GEEZ, HE FEELS LIKE HE WEIGHS HALF A TON!

FROM EVERYTHING I'VE HEARD, PAL-- HE DOES!

HEY, DO OUR INSURANCE BENEFITS COVER A DOUBLE HERNIA?

LOOK, IF WE DON'T GET THE HULK INSIDE THIS AIR-TIGHT ARMORED CAR BEFORE HE WAKES UP...

...OUR WIDOWS WILL BE COLLECTING ON OUR INSURANCE!

NOT SO FAST, SON! YOU'D BETTER COME ALONG IN THE ARMORED CAR WITH US!

HEY--WHAT IS THIS?

KID, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR CONNECTION TO THE HULK IS...

...BUT WE INTEND TO FIND OUT!

SWELL! NOW WHAT AM I SUPPOSE TO DO?

ALL ALONG THE WAY, PEOPLE GATHER TO WATCH THE BIZARRE PROCESSION PASSING BY.

TODAY IS NOT A HOLIDAY, MOST OF THEM QUICKLY REALIZE, SO WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE THE OCCASION?

BUT THEN, SINCE EVERYBODY LOVES A PARADE, NO ONE REALLY SEEMS TO MIND...

MAN, WAIT'LL I TELL ARCHIE ABOUT THIS!

...NO ONE, THAT IS, SAVE A MOST PENSIVE JIM WILSON!

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT! IF THE HULK HADN'T COME TO MY RESCUE,* HE WOULDN'T BE IN THIS MESS!

*AGAIN, LAST ISH. --LEN.

SO IT'S UP TO ME TO GET HIM OUT OF IT...

...ANY WAY I CAN!

AND RIGHT NOW, THE ONLY THING I CAN THINK OF IS...

...THIS!

HEY--NO! DON'T--!

BUT THE DEVASTATING SOUND OF IMPACT DROWNS OUT THE REST OF THE FLUSTERED LAWMAN'S DESPERATE SHOUT!

THRA-A-A-KROOM!

THE SILENCE THAT FOLLOWS IS DEAFENING!

SWEET HEAVEN, WHAT HAPPENED? I DIDN'T SEE A TIRE BLOW OUT OR...

THE QUESTION, AMIGO, IS WHETHER ANYBODY'S STILL ALIVE IN THAT WRECK!

AND THE ANSWER TO THAT IS QUICKLY OBVIOUS!

YOU YOUNG FOOL! YOU COULD'VE KILLED US ALL!

BUT I DIDN'T, DID I? AND THAT'S WHAT COUNTS!

WE'RE GONNA PUT YOU AWAY FOR THIS, KID!

WE'D BEST CHECK OUT THE ARMORED CAR!

IF THE CRASH ENABLED THE SOMNA-GAS INSIDE TO LEAK OUT, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT...

TOO LATE!! THE HULK HAS AWAKENED--AND HE'S FREE!!

SKRAK!

AARRRRRR

HULK IS BACK, ROBOT--AND HULK IS MAD!!

PRAM!

VERY MAD!!

QUICKLY, SEAL YOUR PROTECT-PODS BEFORE... NO!!

THE MONSTER'S BLOW MUST HAVE JAMMED THE MECHANISM!

THE PROTECT-PODS WON'T CLOSE!!

EASY, AMIGO! WE AIN'T OUTTA ACTION YET!

BROK!

BAH! ONCE AGAIN, ROBOT HITS HULK, TRIES TO SMASH HULK--

--BUT THIS TIME, HULK WAS READY FOR IT!

THIS TIME, HULK HIT WALL WITH HAND INSTEAD OF HEAD--

--SO HULK COULD BOUNCE OFF...

KWAMM!

...AND HIT PUNY ROBOT WHERE IT HURTS!!

NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND, ROBOT? NOW DO YOU SEE?

HULK IS THE STRONGEST ONE THERE IS!!

IMPACT STAGGERED US... BUT GYRO-STABILIZERS KEPT US ERECT!

I ONLY WONDER IF WE'RE GOING TO STAY THAT WAY!

WE'VE BEATEN HIM BEFORE, VAN DYKE--AND WE CAN BEAT HIM AGAIN THE SAME WAY!

I'M ACTIVATING THE REMAINING SOMNA-GAS!!

SO! ROBOT WILL NOT FACE HULK MAN-TO-MAN!

INSTEAD PUNY ROBOT TRIES TO TRICK HULK AGAIN WITH STUPID GAS!

BUT GAS CANNOT MAKE HULK SLEEP, ROBOT--

SKRAK!

--IF GAS NEVER REACHES HULK IN THE FIRST PLACE!

NO! THE MAN-BRUTE HAS JAMMED THE SOMNA-GAS APERTURE SHUT!

HAVE TO TURN IT OFF BEFORE...

CUFF

BUT IT IS ALREADY FAR **TOO LATE!** HAVING NOWHERE **ELSE** TO GO, THE STUPIFYING FUMES SWIFTLY **FILL** THE TOWERING MECHANOID...

...AND RENDER ITS OCCUPANTS **UNCONSCIOUS!**

WITH NO ONE TO **COMMAND** IT, THE QUINTRONIC MAN STAGGERS AND REELS LIKE SOME GREAT, GOLDEN **DRUNKARD**--

--UNTIL IT STUMBLES BACK INTO AN ALREADY-DAMAGED **BUILDING**...

...AND BRINGS THE ENTIRE **STRUCTURE** TUMBLING DOWN **UPON** IT!

AND, FRANKLY, IF YOU THOUGHT THEY HAD TROUBLE PUTTING **HUMPTY DUMPTY** BACK TOGETHER AGAIN... WELL, YOU GET OUR **MEANING.**

KWA-URAM!

COME, JIM! IT IS TIME TO GO **AWAY** FROM HERE!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE GUYS STILL **TRAPPED** INSIDE THAT **ROBOT?** CAN'T YOU...

NO! PUNY ROBOT TRIED TO PUT HULK INTO **CAGE,** JIM--

--AND THAT IS **ONE** THING HULK WILL NOT **FORGIVE!**

I'M TOO LATE! THE BATTLE IS ALREADY **OVER!**

BUT I CAN STILL **FOLLOW** THE HULK BACK TO...

WHAT AM I **SAYING?** I CAN'T GO **ANYWHERE**--

--NOT UNTIL I'VE HELPED **FREE** THE MEN PINNED UNDER THAT **RUBBLE!**

BUT WE'LL MEET **AGAIN,** MONSTER, AND WHEN WE DO...

...THE JACK OF HEARTS WILL **FINISH** YOU!!

NEXT ISSUE: ONE OF MIGHTY MARVEL'S BRIGHTEST **BLACK-AND-WHITE STARS** EXPLODES INTO **FULL COLOR** WITH A VENGEANCE! BE HERE FOR...

THE JACK OF HEARTS IS WILD!

INCREDIBLE HULK®

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THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

THE JACK OF HEARTS IS WILD!

MIGHTY MARVEL'S MOST TALKED-ABOUT NEW SUPER-STAR EXPLODES INTO FULL-COLOR ACTION AT LAST--AND HIS TARGET IS OL' JADE-JAWS HIMSELF!

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

LEN WEIN * **SAL BUSCEMA & ERNIE CHAN** * **GLYNIS WEIN** * **JOHN COSTANZA**
WRITER/EDITOR — ILLUSTRATORS — colorist — letterer

The JACK OF HEARTS IS WILD!

IF YOU'RE WONDERING **WHY** THIS RATHER LARGE GREEN **GENTLEMAN** WEARS A DECIDEDLY **UNHAPPY** EXPRESSION, GENTLE MARVELITE -- WE ASSURE YOU THERE IS A VERY GOOD **REASON**!

YOU SEE, IN THE PAST FEW **HOURS**, HE HAS BATTLED THE CONTRACT KILLER CALLED THE **CONSTRICTOR** FOR THE LIFE OF YOUNG **JIM WILSON**, THEN STRUGGLED TO SAVE HIS **OWN** LIFE FROM THE INCREDIBLE **QUINTRONIC MAN**--

--AND FRANKLY, RIGHT NOW, HE IS BOUND AND DETERMINED THAT HE WILL **NOT** BE BOTHERED **AGAIN**.!!

THOOM!

CORRECTION: IN THE FIRST CAPTION ON THIS PAGE, WE INADVERTENTLY REFERRED TO THE HULK AS A **GENTLEMAN**! WE SINCERELY REGRET ANY **CONFUSION** THIS MAY HAVE CAUSED!

WHEREVER HULK GOES, JIM, IT IS ALWAYS THE SAME-- LITTLE MEN ATTACK HULK, TRY TO KILL HULK--!

BUT THAT'S OVER NOW, BIG BUDDY-- WE'RE SAFE!

HULK HAS TAKEN ENOUGH FROM PUNY HUMANS, JIM!

HULK HAS TAKEN MORE THAN ENOUGH!!

KROOM!

IF PUNY HUMANS ATTACK HULK AGAIN, JIM--HULK SWEARS HULK WILL KILL THEM ALL!

NO, HULK-- DON'T SAY THAT!

YOU KILL ANYONE--AN' YOU BECOME THE MONSTER THEY SAY YOU ARE!

LOOK AT HULK, JIM--!

IS HULK NOT ALREADY A MONSTER?

HULK IS BIG! HULK IS STRONG! THAT IS WHY LITTLE MEN FEAR HULK!

THEY HATE HULK BECAUSE HULK IS NOT SOFT... AND PINK... AND WEAK...

...LIKE THE ONE THEY CALL...

...BRUCE BANNER!

I... I'M BACK AGAIN!

AND SO ARE YOU!

LORD, IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, JIM! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

JUST SWELL, DOC! WHEN THINGS GOT TIGHT, YOU-KNOW-WHO SAVED MY HIDE!

YEAH, I'M BEGINNING TO LEARN THAT BIG GREEN GORILLA DOES HAVE HIS USES AFTER ALL!

C'MON, LET'S HEAD HOME -- AND YOU CAN TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT!

HOME, HUH? MAN, I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN HOW GOOD THAT WORD COULD SOUND!

WHILE HALFWAY ACROSS MANHATTAN...

MAN, WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT GUY!?

HE'S RAY-BLASTING THAT RUBBLE AWAY IN A FRACTION OF THE TIME IT'D TAKE A WORK CREW TO REMOVE IT!

NOW WE CAN SAVE THE MEN STILL TRAPPED UNDER THERE!

BUT WHERE WAS HE WHEN WE REALLY NEEDED HIM?

LIKE WHEN THE QUINTRONIC MAN WAS BEING TOTALLED BY THE HULK!

WE START RELYING ON THESE SUPER-TYPES TO DO OUR JOB FOR US, MURPHY--AND WE'LL FORGET HOW TO DO IT OURSELVES!

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, MAX! WE CAN HANDLE MOST NORMAL CRIMES--

NOW GIVE ME A HAND HERE!

--BUT TANGLING WITH HALF-TON GREEN GOLIATHS IS A LITTLE OUT OF OUR LEAGUE!

SO WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE WE DO ABOUT IT?

IF COSTUMED VIGILANTES LIKE THIS JACK OF HEARTS WANT TO RUN AROUND OUR CITY, WHY AREN'T THEY OUT IN FORCE--

--TRACKING THAT MAN-BRUTE DOWN?

I CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE OTHERS, OFFICER--

--BUT I KNOW THAT I INTEND TO DO PRECISELY THAT!

YOU'RE GOOD AT TALKING, MISTER--BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN MUCH ACTION!

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'VE GOT THAT BEE UNDER YOUR BONNET, FELLA--BUT I ASSURE YOU I MEAN WHAT I SAY!

THE JACK OF HEARTS WON'T REST UNTIL THE HULK IS BEHIND BARS--

--OR SIX FEET UNDER THE GROUND!!

SHORTLY, AT A ROOMING HOUSE ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE...

ROOMS TO LET

HOW COME, DOC? YOU OWE THAT MUCH BACK RENT?

I'D--AH--APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D KEEP IT A LITTLE QUIET ON YOUR WAY UPSTAIRS, JIM.

NO, BUT MY LANDLADY APRIL SOMMERS HAS STARTED ASKING EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS LATELY...

...QUESTIONS I CAN'T ANSWER WITHOUT TELLING HER ALL ABOUT MY EMERALD ALTER EGO!

HEY, WE'RE IN LUCK. HER DOOR IS CLOSED.

COME ON, JIM-- LET'S MOVE IT!

IT SAVES HAVING TO EXPLAIN ABOUT MY TATTERED CLOTHING, BUT I CAN'T KEEP SNEAKING AROUND LIKE THIS FOR... HUH?

MY DOOR'S AJAR-- BUT I'M SURE I LEFT IT LOCKED!

WELL, SOMEBODY MUST'A OPENED IT, DOC...

...AN' I'LL LAY YOU EVEN ODDS THAT'S THE CULPRIT RIGHT THERE!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, JIM?

I DON'T KNOW 'BOUT YOU, DOC--

--BUT I'M CATCHIN' ME A SNEAK-THIEF!

WHAT--?!?

OKAY, TURKEY--TELL US WHO YOU ARE AN' WHAT YOU'RE DOIN' HERE 'FORE I...

HUH?

DOLT! DUNDERHEAD! LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO MY WARD-ROBE!

I'LL SEE YOU IN IRONS FOR THIS! I'LL HAVE YOUR HEAD ON A SILVER PLATTER!

EASY, ACE--YER THE ONE WHO BROKE IN HERE, REMEMBER?

AND JUST WHO IN BLAZES ARE YOU ANY-WAY?

HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING IN A MONASTERY, SIR? EVERYONE KNOWS KROPOTKIN THE GREAT!

I AM THE WORLD'S FOREMOST EXPONENT OF MAGIC AND THE ARTS OF PRESTIDIG-ITATION!

I HAVE PERFORMED BEFORE THE CROWNED HEADS OF EUROPE...

...AND THE SHERIFFS OF EVERY SMALL TOWN FROM HERE TO ENCINO!

THAT STILL DON'T GIVE YOU NO CALL TO BUST INTA OTHER PEOPLE'S PADS!

THAT, MY GOOD LAD, IS WHERE YOU ARE SORELY MISTAKEN! THESE HAPPEN TO BE MY LIVING QUARTERS!

THEY WERE YOUR LIVING QUARTERS, YOU MEAN! THIS IS MY APARTMENT NOW!

DON'T BE ABSURD, SIR! LOOK AROUND YOU!

WHY, THESE CHAMBERS ARE A VERITABLE MUSEUM OF KROPOTKIN MEM-ORABILIA!

THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE YOU LEFT THIS JUNK BE-HIND YOU WHEN YOU SKIPPED WITHOUT PAYING THE RENT!

THE LANDLADY CONFISCATED IT IN LIEU OF PAYMENT!

WHAT--?!? HOW DARE SHE? IT'S UNHEARD OF! IT'S SACRILEGE! IT'S...

IT'S THE BREAKS, FRIEND--

--UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH CASH ON HAND TO COVER YOUR SIX MONTHS' BACK RENT!

PREPOSTEROUS! THE GREAT KROPOTKIN LIVES ONLY FOR HIS ART!

IN OTHER WORDS, YER BROKE, HUH?

LOOK, THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH, FRIEND. WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A WALK?

AND LEAVE THE WORK OF A LIFETIME *BEHIND* ME? *NEVER*, I SAY!

DEFEND YOURSELF, SIR! YOU WILL *KEEP* MY PRECIOUS BELONGINGS OVER MY DEAD *BODY!*

YOU KEEP *SHOUTING*, FELLA--AND THAT CAN BE *ARRANGED!*

HUH?

I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D HAVE *NERVE* ENOUGH TO SHOW YOUR OVERSTUFFED *FACE* AROUND HERE AGAIN, KROPOTKIN!

YOU STILL *OWE* ME AN ARM AND A LEG--AND I INTEND TO *COLLECT!*

I *ASSURE* YOU, MY DEAR MISS SOMMERS, I MERELY *RETURNED* TO THESE PREMISES TO *RETRIEVE* WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY *MINE!*

AND WHAT ABOUT THIS JUNIOR-GRADE *J. J. WALKER* HERE? WHO'S *HE?*

HIS NAME IS *JIM WILSON*, APRIL--AND HE'S MY *GUEST!*

YOUR *GUEST?*

I STILL HAVEN'T DECIDED WHETHER TO THROW *YOU* OUT OF HERE--AND YOU'RE BRINGING IN *GUESTS?!*

UNTIL YOU *DO* THROW ME OUT, LADY, THIS IS STILL *MY* APARTMENT--

--AND I'LL BRING IN *ANYONE* I BLAMED WELL *FEEL* LIKE... *UUNNHH...*

SHOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN *EXCITED*... TOO GREAT A *STRAIN...*

BRUCE?

HEY, *DOC*-- YOU *OKAY?*

N-NO. PLEASE-- GET EVERYONE *OUT* OF HERE, JIM-- *QUICKLY!*

YOU *HEARD* THE MAN--'FRAID YOU'LL HAVE TA MAKE YER-SELVES *SCARCE!*

YOU'RE *KIDDING*, RIGHT? THIS IS *MY* BUILDING, SONNY!

AND THESE ARE *MY* POSSESS-IONS!

AND IT'LL BE *BOTH* YER *HIDES* IF YA DON'T *LISTEN* TO ME-- *NOW!!*

YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE *LAST* OF ME! I'LL CALL THE *ARMY*... THE *MARINES*... I'LL CALL *ANN LANDERS*!!

CALL WHOEVER YOU *WANNA*, CHUM-- BUT USE YER OWN *DIME*!

BRUCE, I...I HOPE YOU FEEL *BETTER*.

THANK YOU--NOW *GO*!!

AND WHEN THE DOOR IS CLOSED AND LOCKED...

PLEASE, DOC-- TELL ME IT'S NOT WHAT I *THINK* IT IS!

SORRY, JIM... BUT THE *EX-CITEMENT*... IT'S TRIGGERED THE *CHANGE*! MY HEART'S POUNDING... MY PULSE *RACING*...

GOT TO GET *AWAY* FROM HERE... WHILE I STILL *CAN*...

DOC, MAYBE SOME *TRANQUILIZERS*...?

DOC--?!?

IT'S *TOO LATE* FOR TRAN-QUILIZERS, JIM... TOO LATE FOR *ANYTHING*!

BRUCE BANNER HAS *LOST* THE ENDLESS BATTLE *AGAIN*, LAD...

...AND THE *HULK* WALKS THE WORLD OF LITTLE MEN ONCE MORE!!

PUNY BANNER *WANTED* THIS PLACE OF CROWDS AND *PEOPLE*--

--BUT ALL *HULK* WANTS IS A PLACE WHERE HULK CAN BE LEFT *ALONE*!!

THOOM!

THERE HE *GOES*-- LEAPIN' TALL BUILDIN'S IN A *SINGLE BOUND* AGAIN!

I'VE GOTTA GO *AFTER* HIM... GOTTA *FIND* HIM SOMEHOW...

...'CAUSE WITHOUT *JIM WILSON* TO KEEP SOME KIND'A *REIN* ON HIM...

...THE HULK IS LIABLE TA TEAR THIS WHOLE CITY *APART*!!

AND ON THAT OMINOUS NOTE, LET'S CUT TO THE HIGH-FLYING SHIELD HELI-CARRIER...

...WHERE AN ORGANIZED PANIC IS ALREADY IN PROGRESS!

LET'S MOVE IT, YOU JOKERS! SPLIT UP-- AND SCOUR EVERY INCH OF THIS VESSEL!

THERE'S SOMEONE-- OR SOME THING-- ON THE LOOSE AROUND HERE...

AND WE'RE GOING TO FIND IT!

WHILE, IN ONE OF THE LAB ROOMS...

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, GENERAL ROSS. SHIELD FOUND THIS CONTAINER AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN!

WHATEVER WAS INSIDE IT SHOULD BE FLOUNDERING AROUND LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER!

THAT'S ASSUMING THE CAPSULE ORIGINATED UNDERSEA, QUARTERMAIN--AND CONSIDERING THE GAMMA RADIATION IT WAS EMITTING, I DOUBT THAT!

WHICH IS WHY WE CALLED YOU GAMMA BASE BOYCHIKS HERE--TO TELL US WHERE IT CAME FROM!

FIRST, GAFFER, WE'D BETTER FIGURE OUT WHERE ITS UNKNOWN IN-HABITANT HAS GONE TO!

AT THE MOMENT, CLAY QUARTERMAIN, THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION IS MOVING ABOUT THRU THE VERY BOWELS OF THE HELI-CARRIER ITSELF...

SOON, WARRIOR--SOON, ALL THIS WILL BE OURS AGAIN!

IT HAS BEEN SO VERY LONG, MY BROTHER!

BUT OUR KNOWLEDGE HAS NOT BEEN LOST, WARRIOR! THIS PRIMITIVE CIRCUITRY IS CHILDISHLY SIMPLE TO REWIRE!

TOGETHER, WE WILL TRANSFORM THIS VESSEL TO SUIT OUR URGENT NEEDS...

...AND THEN, AT LAST, WE WILL BE...

...HOME!

MEANWHILE, IN THE BIG APPLE...

HOW CAN LITTLE MEN LIVE LIKE THIS--IN HOUSES THAT BLOT OUT THE SKY?

NO WONDER PUNY HUMANS HATE HULK!

THEY MUST HATE EACH OTHER MORE!!

IT IS NOT GOOD FOR THEM TO BE PRESSED TOGETHER LIKE THIS!

LITTLE MEN SHOULD HAVE MORE SPACE... TO THINK... TO BREATHE...

...TO BE ALONE.

MAYBE THEN, PUNY HUMANS WOULD NOT BOTHER HULK ANYMORE!

MAYBE THEN, THEY WOULD LEAVE HULK IN PEACE!

AAARRGGHH!

IN PIECES IS MORE LIKE IT, MONSTER!

THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES, MAN-BRUTE--

--AND JACK OF HEARTS IS HERE TO COLLECT!

PLOW!

WHO ARE YOU, SPLIT-FACE? HULK DOES NOT KNOW YOU!

THRAMM!

WHY HAVE YOU ATTACKED HULK? WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH HULK?

WHAT I'VE WANTED FROM EVERY OTHER ENEMY OF SOCIETY I'VE FACED, MAN-BRUTE!

I WANT JUSTICE!

AND ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, I'M GOING TO GET IT!!

I OWE A *DEBT*, HULK-- TO THE MEMORY OF MY *FATHER*!

HE DEVOTED HIS *LIFE* TO THE *BETTERMENT* OF MAN -- AND GOT *MURDERED* FOR HIS *PAINS*!

WHUDD!

UNNFF!!

BUT I *AVENGED* HIS DEATH, AND I'LL GO *ON* AVENGING IT--

--UNTIL MANKIND'S *ENEMIES* HAVE BEEN WIPED OFF THE FACE OF THE *EARTH*!!

BWAM!

"NOW I'M CALLING ON YOU TO *SURRENDER*, MAN-BRUTE-- WHILE YOU STILL *CAN*!

THRUNCH!

"PLEASE--DON'T FORCE ME TO *KILL* YOU!"

SPLIT-FACE WANTS TO *KILL* HULK?

BAH!

HULK HAD NO *QUARREL* WITH YOU, SPLIT-FACE! HULK JUST WANTED TO BE LEFT *ALONE*!

BUT YOU *ATTACKED* HULK WITHOUT *WARNING*... WITHOUT *REASON*...

...AND FOR THAT-- *HULK WILL SMASH!*

FIRST, YOU'LL HAVE TO *CATCH* ME, MONSTER--

--AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET YOU *DO* THAT!!

I'VE HEARD A GREAT DEAL *ABOUT* YOU OVER THE YEARS, HULK--

--ABOUT HOW YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE *IMPOSSIBLE TO BEAT*--

WHUMP!

--BUT IT APPEARS THE REPORTS OF YOUR *POWER* WERE SLIGHTLY *EXAGGER-ATED!*

UUNNHH!!

YOU DO NOT *BELIEVE* HULK'S POWER, SPLIT-FACE? THEN HULK WILL *SHOW* YOU!

HULK WILL *CRUSH* SPLIT-FACE INTO...

YOU'LL CRUSH *NOTHING*, MAN-BRUTE--

STRAK!

AARRGGHH!!

--NOT SO LONG AS I STILL HAVE *POWER* OF MY *OWN!*

AND FRANKLY, MY OWN POWER IS SO *AWESOME* THAT ONLY THIS *ARMOR* I WEAR CAN *CONTAIN* IT!

SHRAMM!

I'M A LIVING *POWER GENERATOR*--THANKS TO THE ACCIDENTAL *BATH* I TOOK IN *ZERO FLUID*, THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL *LIQUID FUEL!*

BAH! YOU ARE *STRONG*, SPLIT-FACE-- BUT NOT *ALL* YOUR STRENGTH WILL *SAVE* YOU!

YOU HAVE *ATTACKED* HULK, WHEN HULK DID *NOTHING* TO HURT *YOU*...

... AND SOON, YOU ARE GOING TO *REGRET* IT!!

KRASHH!

BUT JUST HOW SOON, HULK, YOU COULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED!

SWEET LORD! WHAT HAVE I *DONE?*

ON THE DOCK *BEYOND* THOSE HIGH-PILED *PACKING CRATES*-- THERE'S A WHOLE BATTALION OF *FIREMEN*...

...TRYING TO *EXTINGUISH* THAT BLAZING *FREIGHTER!*

NOW, SPLIT-FACE, WE WILL *SEE* WHO IS THE *STRONGER* HERE...

...AND THERE IS NO ONE STRONGER THAN *HULK!!*

HE STILL HASN'T *NOTICED* ALL THAT'S GOING ON *BEHIND* HIM! I'VE GOT TO *PRESS* MY ASSAULT...

WHAK!

...TRY TO LURE THE HULK *AWAY* FROM HERE BEFORE SOMEBODY *INNO-CENT* GETS...

UUNNGGHH!

HE'S LIKE A *BRICK WALL!* I DIDN'T *BUDGE* HIM!

NOTHING CAN MOVE HULK IF HULK DOES NOT WANT TO BE MOVED--

POW!

--BUT HULK CAN MOVE YOU, SPLIT-FACE!

HULK CAN MOVE YOU!!

C'MON, WHAT'SA MATTA' WIT' YOU GUYS? GET THE PRESSURE UP ON THIS HOSE BEFORE... HUH?

NOW WHAT?

IT'S ONE OF THEM SUPER-HEROES, IKE! HE JUST CAME FLYIN' IN OUTTA NOWHERE...

..."AN' LOOK WHAT'S FLYIN' IN AFTER HIM!!"

YOU WANTED A FIGHT, SPLIT-FACE-- NOW YOU HAVE ONE!

BUT IT WILL BE A SHORT FIGHT, SPLIT-FACE!

VERY SHORT!!

THANK HEAVEN FOR MY HAND-BLASTS!

SHROWW!

THOOM

HE JUST CAME WITHIN A FRACTION OF AN INCH OF FLATTENING ME!

ALL OF YOU-- GET AWAY FROM HERE!

I'LL HOLD THE HULK OFF UNTIL YOU'RE SAFE!

YER A LOT MORE CONFIDENT THAN I'D BE, BUSTER!

BUT WE'RE GOIN'! WE'RE GOIN'!

AND EVEN AS THE FIREMEN FLEE, THE FORMER OBJECT OF THEIR CONCERN IS ALSO LEAVING--

--AS THE FLAMING FREIGHTER IS TOWED FROM ITS BERTH AND OUT OF THE HARBOR!

FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES: A LOST CAUSE!

IT'S NO GOOD! THEY'LL NEVER ALL GET CLEAR BEFORE THE HULK HURTS SOMEBODY--OR WORSE! I'VE GOT TO THINK OF SOME ALTERNATIVE...

DO NOT TRY TO RUN, SPLIT-FACE--YOU CANNOT ESCAPE HULK!

...AND IT LOOKS LIKE GREENSKIN'S SOLVED MY PROBLEM FOR ME!

IF YOU WANT ME, UGLY--YOU'LL HAVE TO COME AND GET ME!

SHHYROOOWWW

AND I DON'T THINK YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO DO THAT!

HUH?

YOU WILL NOT INSULT HULK AGAIN, SPLIT-FACE! HULK IS STRONG!

STRONGER THAN YOU!

STRONGR THAN ANYONE!!

WHEREVER YOU GO SPLIT-FACE--HULK WILL FOLLOW!

HULK WILL FOLLOW, AND WHEN HULK IS CLOSE ENOUGH...

...HULK WILL STRIKE!!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! NOTHING ALIVE CAN MOVE THAT FAST!!

I ONLY WANTED TO GOAD HIM INTO FOLLOWING ME--BUT INSTEAD, I'VE MADE HIM FURIOUS!

YOU STARTED THIS FIGHT, SPLIT-FACE--

--BUT IT IS HULK WHO WILL END IT!!

AND, THE MOMENTUM OF HIS MONUMENTAL LEAP BROKEN BY HIS IMPACT WITH THE JACK OF HEARTS, THE GREEN GOLIATH AND HIS ONE-EYED ADVERSARY PLUNGE HELPLESSLY DOWNWARD--

--DOWN TO THE FLAMING DECK OF THE ABANDONED FREIGHTER!

THROOM!

DOWN TO THE DECK--

--AND THRU IT!

THE HULK LANDED FIRST-- TOOK THE BRUNT OF THE IMPACT--!

IT'S THE ONLY THING--THAT SAVED MY LIFE!

THUDD!

BUT IT HARDLY SEEMS TO HAVE BOTHERED THE MAN-BRUTE AT ALL!

HE'S BACK ON HIS FEET AGAIN-- AND MADDER THAN EVER!

STAND STILL, SPLIT-FACE!

STAND STILL SO HULK CAN SMASH!!

I'D REALLY LIKE TO OBLIGE YOU, MONSTER--

--BUT I JUST DON'T HAVE THAT GREAT A DEATH WISH!

IF YOU DO NOT LEAVE HULK ALONE, SPLIT-FACE--

--DEATH IS ALL YOU WILL HAVE LEFT!!

THRANGG!

IF THAT ZERO FLUID BATH HADN'T GIVEN MY BODY THE ABILITY TO HEAL ITSELF, THE HULK WOULD'VE FINISHED ME BY NOW!

BUT THE WAY THIS BATTLE IS GOING, HE MAY MANAGE IT YET!

ONCE HULK HAS SMASHED YOU, SPLIT-FACE, MAYBE THE OTHERS WILL FINALLY LEARN...

HULK WANTS TO BE LEFT ALONE!!

WHAM!

M-MAYBE WHAT THE MAN-BRUTE SAYS IS TRUE! MAYBE HE'D NEVER HAVE FOUGHT ME-- OR ANYONE ELSE-- IF HE HADN'T BEEN ATTACKED FIRST!

AFTER ALL, IF A SNAKE BITES A MAN WHO KICKS HIM-- WHOSE FAULT IS IT?

BUT WHAT I'VE LEARNED WON'T HELP ME MUCH, IF WE BOTH DON'T GET OFF THIS FREIGHTER BEFORE IT'S BLOWN TO KINGDOM...

UUNNGGHH!!

SPLIT-FACE ATTACKED HULK--TRIED TO KILL HULK!

SPLIT-FACE MADE HULK FIGHT--AND NOW YOU WILL SUFFER!

YOU'RE RIGHT, HULK, I DID PROVOKE YOU--AND I'M SORRY FOR IT NOW!

PLEASE-- LET'S END OUR CONFLICT--AND TALK!

NO! HULK WILL NOT LISTEN TO SPLIT-FACE! SPLIT-FACE IS A PUNY HUMAN--

--AND HUMANS ALWAYS LIE TO HULK!!

SKRAK

HULK--DON'T! TRY TO UNDERSTAND!

WE'VE GOT TO GET OFF OF THIS SHIP BEFORE IT'S TOO...

BAH!

HULK HAS HEARD ENOUGH LIES! HULK SAID HULK WOULD NOT LISTEN--

--AND HULK MEANT IT!!

THRONNK!

YOU SAID HULK WAS NOT *STRONG*, SPLIT-FACE--BUT YOU WERE *WRONG*!

HULK IS THE *STRONGEST* ONE THERE...

KWA-RA-RA-ROOM!

THANK THE LORD WE GOT HER OUTTA THE *HARBOR* BEFORE HER *BOILERS* BLEW!

YOU SEE ANY *SIGN* OF THEM TWO *SUPER-GUYS* THAT WAS *FIGHTIN'* ON HER?

YOU *KIDDIN'*?

AIN'T *NOTHIN'* THAT COULD'A *SURVIVED* A BLAST LIKE THAT!

C'MON, LET'S GET *OUTTA*...

HEY--*LOOK!* THERE'S SOME-THIN' *MOVIN'* OUT THERE IN THE *WATER!*

AND IT'S COMIN' *THIS WAY!*

*FIRST, THERE IS ONLY A THIN TRAIL OF **BUBBLES**--THEN A **HAND** RISES UP, DESPER-ATELY CLUTCHING THE **DOCK**--*

*--AND A **SECOND** HAND SWIFTLY **FOLLOWS**...*

IT'S... *OVER.*

THE *FORCE* OF THE BLAST BLEW ME UP THRU THAT *SMOKESTACK* LIKE A *SHELL* OUT OF A *CANNON*...

...BUT THERE'S NOTHING THAT COULD *POSSIBLY* HAVE SAVED THE *HULK!*

THEN YA'VE *DONE* IT, AIN'T YA? SOMEBODY'S FINALLY GOTTEN *RID* OF THAT MENACE TO SOCIETY!

YES... I SUPPOSE I *HAVE.*

SO WHY DON'T I FEEL VERY *GOOD* ABOUT IT?

WHY DO I FEEL IT WAS ALL SUCH A TERRIBLE... *WASTE!*

NEXT ISSUE

HOME IS WHERE THE HURT IS!

YOU'LL HAVE TO SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT!

INCREDIBLE HULK®

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

CAPTURED.. BY SUPERIOR POWERS!

ALONE-- AGAINST THE FORCES OF SHIELD!

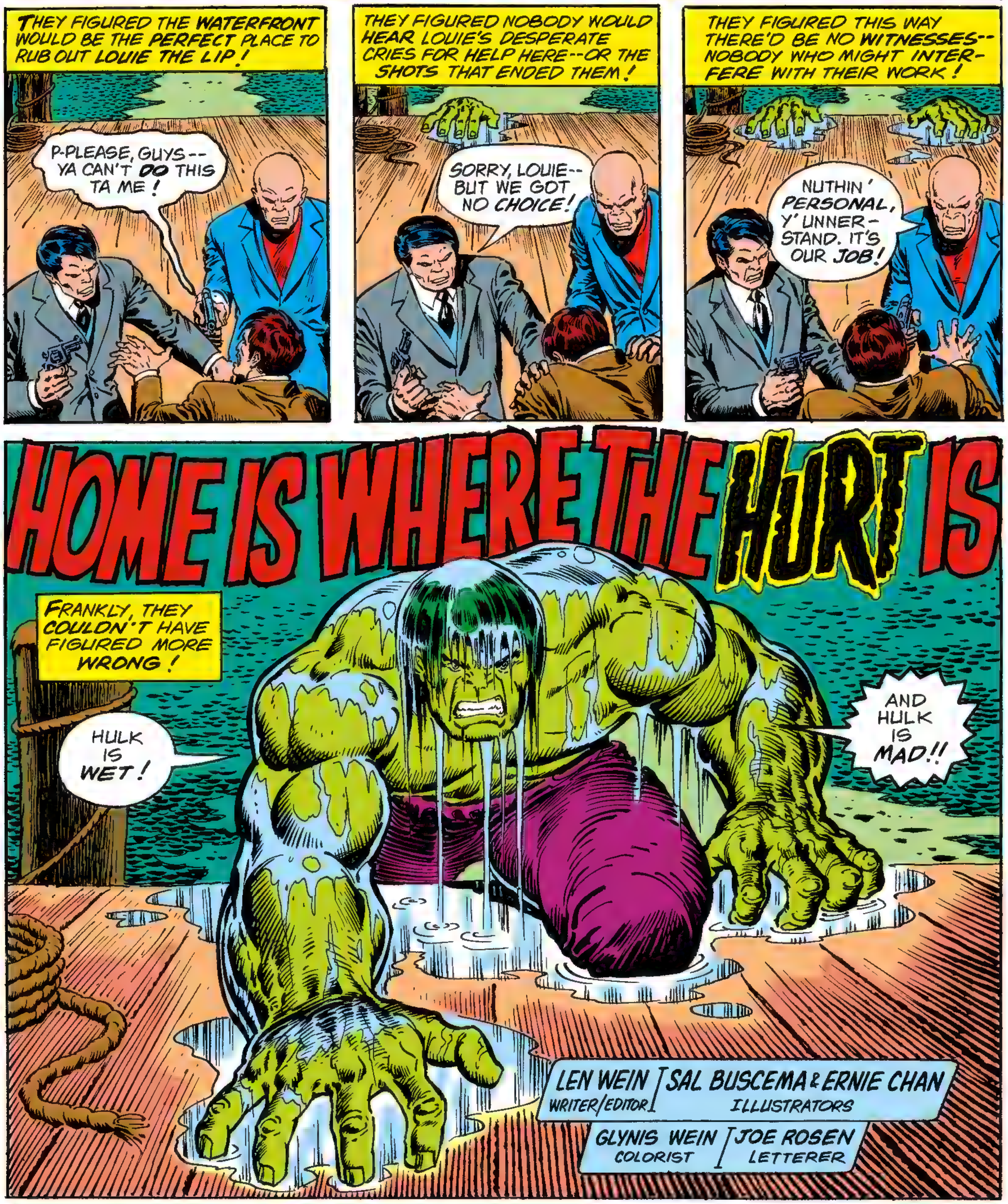
ENRAGED.. HIS OLDEST ENEMY ABOUT TO BECOME HIS VICTIM!

AND BEHIND THESE INSANE ACTS--THE MOST UNEXPECTED SUPER-VILLAIN OF ALL!

VALIDAR & CHAN

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®



WHAT WAS HULK DOING IN *WATER?*

HULK REMEMBERS FIGHTING *SPLIT-FACE* ON BURNING *BOAT**... THEN A BIG *EXPLOSION*...

...AND THEN HULK REMEMBERS *NOTHING*... UNTIL *NOW!*

HOLY GEEZ! WHAT IN BLAZES IS *HE* DOIN' HERE?!?

* THE JACK OF HEARTS LAST ISSUE.--Len

DON'T KNOW *WHY* YER STICKIN' YER *NOSE* IN WHERE IT DON'T *BELONG*, GREENIE--

--BUT WE'RE GETTIN' A *BONUS* FER THIS JOB!

AN' ALL *YER* GONNA GET IS--*DEAD!!*

BLAM

BLAM!

BLAM!

WHY? WHY DO PUNY HUMANS ALWAYS *ATTACK* HULK WITH PUNY *GUNS?*

WHY DO THEY WANT TO MAKE HULK *MAD??*

SPAK!

SPREE!

SPANG!

N-NO! THEM SLUGS ARE BOUNCIN' RIGHT *OFF'A* HIM... LIKE *RAISINS!*

WE JUST DON'T HAVE *FIRE-POWER* ENOUGH TA *STOP* HIM!

VINNIE, I DON'T THINK A *TANK* COULD STOP *THIS* FREAK!

LET'S GET *OUTTA* HERE!

WE CAN TAKE CARE'A *LOUIE* SOME *OTHER* TIME! RIGHT NOW, WE GOTTA TAKE CARE'A *OURSELVES!*

WILL YA GET THIS CRATE IN *GEAR?*

GIMME A CHANCE TA GET BEHIND THE *WHEEL*, WILL YA?

NO! LITTLE MEN CANNOT *SHOOT* AT HULK--AND THEN JUST *RUN AWAY!*

LITTLE MEN TRIED TO *HURT* HULK!

LITTLE MEN TRIED TO *KILL* HULK!

KRUMP!

THOOM!

AND LITTLE MEN MUST *PAY!*

THEIR MEAGER MINDS **REELING**, THE TWO HYSTERICAL **HIT-MEN** ALMOST INSTINCTIVELY THROW THEIR CAR DOORS **OPEN**--

--AND **LEAP** FROM THEIR FLYING **VEHICLE!**

IT WILL TAKE THEM FIFTEEN MINUTES TO **SWIM** AWKWARDLY BACK TO **SHORE**--

--AND LESS THAN AN **HOUR** TO PURCHASE TWO ONE-WAY **RAILROAD TICKETS** TO **NOME, ALASKA!**

AND AS FOR THEIR INTENDED **VICTIM**...

DON'T KNOW WHY YA *DID* IT, FELLA, BUT YA SAVED MY *HASH* JUST NOW--

--AN' LOUIE THE LIP IS **BE-HOLDEN** TO YA!

SO?

SO IF THERE'S EVER ANYTHIN' I CAN **DO** FER YA--Y'KNOW, LIKE PUT A FEW BUCKS ON THE RIGHT *HORSE* OR SOMETHIN'--YOU JUST **TELL** ME AN' I'LL--

HEY--?!?

THERE IS ONLY *ONE* THING YOU CAN DO FOR *HULK*, LITTLE MAN!

YOU CAN LEAVE HULK *ALONE!*

THINGS ARE **HECTIC** RIGHT NOW, TO SAY THE **LEAST**, ABOARD THE HIGH-FLYING **SHIELD HELI-CARRIER:**

EVEN AS WE SPEAK, ITS MYRIAD **CORRIDORS** ARE BEING SCOURED FOR SOME **SIGN** OF A MYSTERIOUS **INTRUDER**--

CHECK SUB-CORRIDOR 14-B...

...AND **MOVE IT!**

--WHILE, IN ONE OF THE SKYCRAFT'S LABS, **GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS**, SHIELD AGENT **CLAY QUARTERMAIN**, AND THE SCIENTIFIC WIZARD CALLED THE **GAFFER**, PONDER THE PROBLEM IN THEIR **USUAL** MANNER...

CONFOUND IT, WHAT'S **TAKING** YOU PEOPLE SO LONG? IF **I** WERE IN CHARGE, WE'D HAVE **FOUND** HIM BY NOW!

GENERAL BUBBIE, LOOKING FOR **ONE MAN** IN A SHIP THIS SIZE IS LIKE LOOKING FOR A **NEEDLE** IN THE STATE OF **RHODE ISLAND!**

HEY, QUARTERMAIN--**COME ON!** WE'VE **CORNERED** HIM!

AND, MOMENTS LATER, AT THE VERY **CORE** OF THE MASSIVE SHIP...

HE'S **HERE**-- IN THE **MASTER CONTROL ROOM**?

WE JUST DON'T **KNOW**, CLAY! THERE WAS A MOMENTARY **BLACKOUT** IN THIS AREA--

--AND WHEN WE RESTORED **POWER**, WE FOUND THE CONTROL ROOM **CREW** SPRAWLED OUT IN THE CORRIDOR--AND **HIM** LOCKED **INSIDE!**

BUT HOW IN BLAZES DID HE GET **IN**?

WELL, WHAT'S DONE IS **DONE!** THE QUESTION **NOW** IS: HOW DO WE GET HIM **OUT**?

YOU JUST LEAVE THAT TO **ME**, BOYCHIK! I CUT MY **BABY TEETH** BYPASSING SIMPLE **CIRCUITS** LIKE THESE!

JUST GIMME A FEW **SECONDS**-- AND I'LL HAVE THAT DOOR WIDE **OPEN** FOR...

AARRGGHH!!

SHZAK!

THANK GOD, HE'S STILL **ALIVE**-- JUST A LITTLE **DAZED!**

BUT WHERE DID HE GET THE **KNOW-HOW**? BY JUPITER, WHO **IS** HE?

THAT CHARACTER IN THERE MUST'VE **REVERSED** THE **POLARITY** OF THE CIRCUITS!

FORGIVE OUR **MANNERS**, GENERAL--YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY **RIGHT!**

WE SHOULD HAVE INTRODUCED OURSELVES **SOONER!**

WE ARE THE **BI-BEAST!** FINAL SURVIVOR OF A GREAT AND ANCIENT RACE!

AND BY DIVINE RIGHT OF CONQUEST, WE **CLAIM** THIS WONDROUS VESSEL OF YOURS AS OUR **OWN!!**

FROM THIS MOMENT FORTH, YOUR **HELI-CARRIER** IS OUR **HOME!!**

MEANWHILE, BACK ON THE WATERFRONT...

WHY DOES HULK STAY HERE... IN THIS BIG UGLY CITY WHERE EVERYONE HATES HULK?

IF HULK WANTED TO, HULK COULD GO AWAY FROM HERE... BUT EVERY-PLACE ELSE HULK KNOWS IS JUST AS BAD!

MAYBE HULK SHOULD JUST...

HEY, BIG BUDDY-- I KNEW IF I SEARCHED THE DOCKS LONG ENUFF, I'D FIND YA HERE!

WHO--?!?

IT'S ME, HULK-- JIM WILSON!

WHAT'S WRONG, PAL? YA LOOK LIKE YA JUST LOST YER BEST FRIEND!

FRIEND, JIM? HULK HAS NO FRIENDS... EXCEPT YOU!

HULK IS JUST TIRED, JIM... TIRED OF ALWAYS RUNNING... TIRED OF ALWAYS FIGHTING...

SOMETIMES HULK THINKS MAYBE IT WOULD BE BEST JUST TO GO TO SLEEP AND NEVER WAKE UP...

...AND LEAVE THIS HATEFUL LITTLE WORLD TO...

...ME.

ROBERT BRUCE BANNER... PROFESSIONAL VICTIM!

WELCOME BACK, DOC. HERE-- I BRUNG YA A CLEAN CHANGE'A CLOTHING!

THANKS, LAD. YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO INCLUDE A CHANGE OF HEART IN THERE AS WELL, DID YOU?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, DOC? YOU SOUND ALMOST AS DEPRESSED AS YOUR BIG GREEN ALTER EGO!

THE HULK AND I SHARE MORE THAN THE SAME BODY, JIM...

...WE SHARE THE SAME SOUL!

AND SOMETIMES I WONDER IF THAT ISN'T THE GREATEST CURSE OF ALL!

AND BACK ABOARD THE HELI-CARRIER...

CAN'T YOU MAKE THIS LASER CUT ANY FASTER, CHUCK?

NOT UNLESS WE WANT TO LET THAT MONSTER IN THERE KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING, BEN!

GAFFER, THIS IS TAKING US LONGER THAN WE FIGURED!

CAN YOU KEEP THAT OVER-SIZED UGLY IN THERE OCCUPIED?

WELL, GENERAL--WHADDAYA THINK? CAN YOU HOLD THE BI-BEAST'S ATTENTION--

--WHILE I HELP THIS TAC-TEAM LASER THRU THE CONTROL ROOM DOOR?

JUST WATCH ME, MISTER!

HEY--YOU IN THERE!! THIS IS GENERAL THADDEUS E. ROSS, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, TALKING TO YOU!

I WANT TO KNOW WHERE YOU COME FROM--AND WHAT YOU'RE DOING IN THERE!

AND I WANT TO KNOW--NOW!!

CAN YOU BELIEVE THE INSOLENCE OF THIS HUMAN, SKULL-BROTHER?

HARDLY, WARRIOR--BUT STILL, IT AMUSES ME TO ANSWER HIM!

IN A TIME LONG PAST NOW, A RACE OF WONDROUS BIRD-PEOPLE DWELT UPON A FABULOUS ISLAND IN THE SKY, WHICH WAS HIDDEN BY CLOUDS FROM THE SPINNING WORLD BELOW!

AS THE YEARS WORE ON, THEIR ANCIENT CIVILIZATION DECAYED, AND THEIR RACE BEGAN TO DIE...

"...BUT BEFORE THEY PASSED INTO ETERNAL OBLIVION, THEY CREATED AN ANDROID CREATURE TO SERVE AS A LIVING REPOSITORY OF ALL THEIR ACCUMULATED KNOWLEDGE!

"IN SHORT, THEY CREATED US... THE BI-BEAST!

"AT FIRST, I LIVED *ALONE*, BUT ULTIMATELY I CRAVED *COMPANIONSHIP*--

"--AND THUS, I FOOLISHLY BROUGHT THE CREATURES CALLED THE *HARPY* AND THE *HULK* TO MY SIDE!

"BUT EVEN AS I MADE THOSE TWO MY *PRISONERS*, THE MONSTROUS *MODOK* ARRIVED UPON THE ISLAND, AT THE HEAD OF A WELL-ARMED *ARMY*--

"--AND CLAIMED MY FLOATING ISLAND FOR HIS *OWN!*

"THE *WAR* FOUGHT FOR *CONTROL* OF MY HOMELAND WAS BITTERLY *BRIEF*--

"--AND, AT LAST, I *FELL* BEFORE THE MURDEROUS *POWER* OF MODOK'S AWESOME WEAPONRY, MY BODY *MORTALLY WOUNDED!*

"BUT STILL, I WAS *DETERMINED* THAT THE LAND OF MY MASTERS WOULD *NOT* FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS!

"WITH MY FINAL BREATH, I *ACTIVATED* THE ISLAND'S *DESTRUCT MECHANISM*...

"... AND EVEN AS MODOK AND HIS MINIONS-- PLUS THE HULK AND THE HARPY-- ALL *FLED*, THE LAND MY MASTERS HAD THOUGHT WOULD LIVE *FOREVER*, AND ITS HAPLESS *GUARDIAN*, WERE BOTH *DESTROYED!*"

* THE PRECEDING *FLASHBACK* COURTESY OF *HULK* #169. -- LEN.

DON'T HAND ME THAT *HOGWASH*, MISTER!

IF YOU WERE *DESTROYED*, YOU COULDN'T VERY WELL BE *HERE* RIGHT NOW, COULD YOU?

WERE WE ANY *NORMAL* CREATURE OF *NATURAL BIRTH*, THAT WOULD INDEED BE *SO!*

BUT WE ARE TRULY THE *BI*-BEAST... *TWO* BEINGS IN *ONE!*

"YOU SEE, OUR MASTERS CREATED *TWO* ANDROID BEINGS-- *ONE* OF WHOM WOULD *SLEEP* UNTIL SUCH TIME AS HE MIGHT BE CALLED UPON TO *REPLACE* HIS INJURED *BROTHER*.

"*I* WAS THAT *SLEEPER*, PASSING MY TIME ABSORBING THE BOUNDLESS *KNOWLEDGE* OF MY MASTERS-- *INCLUDING* THE SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE THAT MY SOUL-BROTHER *LACKED*.

"THE DESTRUCTION OF MY BROTHER'S *BODY* IN THAT DEVASTATING EXPLOSION AT LAST *AWAKENED* ME FROM MY SLEEP--

"--TRANSFERRING MY BROTHER'S CONSCIOUS *MEMORIES* TO ME AT THAT MOMENT AS WELL!

"AS HOPED, MY *BIO-CAPSULE* SURVIVED THE ISLAND'S ANNIHILATION, AND PLUNGED INTO THE *SEA*...

"...WHERE I LAY *HELPLESS*, UNTIL THE *GAMMA RADIATION* THE CAPSULE HAD SOMEHOW *ABSORBED* IN THE EXPLOSION LED YOUR PEOPLE *TO* ME!"

WHEN WE *AWAKENED*, TO FIND OURSELVES UPON THIS *VESSEL*, OUR EXHILARATION KNEW NO *BOUNDS!*

AYE, SKULL-BROTHER-- FOR THIS SKY-SPANNING CRAFT SHALL BECOME OUR *NEW* ISLAND IN THE SKY...

"...THE PERFECT PLACE FROM WHICH TO WREAK OUR *VENGEANCE!*"

WH-WHAT DO YOU *MEAN*?

WE MEAN JUST *THIS*, HUMAN: CREATURES FROM YOUR PALE GREEN PLANET EARTH ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE *DESTRUCTION* OF OUR *WORLD!!*

THUS *WE* INTEND TO DESTROY *YOUR* WORLD IN TURN!!!

AND WE *DON'T* INTEND TO LET ANYTHING *STOP* US!!

TAK!

HOLY JOE! THE *LASER*-- IT'S RUNNING *AMUCK!*

CLEAR THE *AREA*-- BEFORE WE ALL GET *FRIED!!*

THAT MONSTER *KNEW* WHAT WE WERE DOING ALL ALONG--!

AND HE CONTROLS THE *MANUAL OVERRIDE* TO ALL THE HELI-CARRIER'S *WEAPONRY* IN THERE!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU *DOING*, QUARTERMAIN?

GETTING YOU BOTH OUT OF *RANGE*, GENERAL--

--BEFORE YOU GET *SLICED IN HALF!!*

VAY IST MEA! THIS WAS *MY* PLAN, CLAY BOYCHIK-- BUT I COULDN'T AGREE WITH YOU *MORE!*

AND WHEN, AT LAST, EVERYONE HAS SCRAMBLED TO SAFETY--AND THE LASER-BORN TUMULT HAS FINALLY DIED DOWN...

THAT WAS ABOUT AS *CLOSE* AS I EVER WANNA *CUT* IT, FELLAS!

ONE OF THOSE LASER-SHOTS NEARLY PARTED MY *HAIR!*

BUT WHADDA WE SUPPOSED TA DO *NOW*?

SO LONG AS THE BI-BEAST *HOLDS* THAT MASTER CONTROL ROOM, THERE'S NOTHING ABOARD THIS *SHIP* THAT CAN *BEAT* HIM!

THEN SOMEHOW, WE'LL HAVE TO LURE HIM *OUT* OF THERE, MISTER--

--AND SOMETHING THAT MONSTER *TOLD* ME BACK THERE GIVES ME A PRETTY GOOD *IDEA* OF HOW TO *DO* IT!

NOW *LISTEN*... AND LISTEN *CLOSE!*

AND MINUTES LATER, ON MANHATTAN'S LOWER EAST SIDE...

YOU SURE YA WANNA GO **BACK** TO YER ROOMIN' HOUSE, DOC?

BITE YOUR **TONGUE**, SON! I CAME TO NEW YORK TO FIND SOME SORT OF **LIFE** FOR MYSELF--

THE WAY YER **LAND-LADY** AN' THAT **KROPOT-KIN** CREEP WERE **SHOUTIN'** AT YA BEFORE, YA MIGHT BE **SAFER** AS THE **HULK!**

--AND NEITHER **RAIN** NOR **SNOW** NOR **APRIL SOMMERS' TANTRUMS** WILL DETER ME!

ROOM TO ET

AND SPEAKING OF THE **DEVIL**-- LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE STILL **AT** IT!

...YOU'RE NOT TAKING A **THING** OUT OF HERE, YOU HALF-BAKED HOUDINI, UNTIL I SEE SOME OF THE **BACK RENT** YOU OWE ME!

THERE ARE **LAWS** AGAINST THIS SORT OF **INHUMAN TREATMENT**...

...AND I'LL BET YOU'VE **BROKEN** EVERY ONE OF THEM IN YOUR TIME!

ER... **HI**, APRIL.

AND WHAT THE HECK ARE **YOU** DOING OUT HERE?

YOU THREW ME OUT OF YOUR **ROOM** A WHILE AGO BE-CAUSE YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE **SICK!***

*LAST ISH.--LEN.

I'M REALLY **SORRY** ABOUT THAT, APRIL-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME **OVER** ME!

WELL, **I** DO! IT WAS A SEVERE CASE'A TURNIN' **GREEN** AROUND THE GILLS!

BUT I STARTED FEELING MUCH **BETTER** RIGHT AFTERWARD, SO I THOUGHT A LITTLE **FRESH AIR** MIGHT...

HUH?

SWEET HEAVEN! THAT BEAM OF **LIGHT**--IT'S **PULLING** HIM INTO THE **SKY!**

WE'VE GOT TO **SAVE** HIM--!

SURE WE DO...

...ONLY **YOU** TELL ME **HOW!**

THERE IS NO **SOUND** WITHIN THE BIZARRE VACUUM OF LIGHT THAT DRAWS ROBERT BRUCE BANNER **SKYWARD**...

...YET STILL THE FRAIL PHYSICIST CAN **HEAR** A FEARSOME **POUNDING** IN HIS EARS...

...A RELENTLESS **RHYTHM** THAT GROWS **LOUDER**, EVER **LOUDER**...

...UNTIL, AT LAST, HE **REALIZES** THE SOUND IS THE **POUNDING** OF HIS OWN STRAINING **HEART!**

EXCELLENT **SHOT**, MISTER! THIS CONTRAPTION OF YOURS PICKED **BANNER** UP ON THE FIRST **TRY!**

NO BIG **DEAL**, GENERAL--CONSIDERIN' I HELPED **DESIGN** IT!

THE **VORTEX BEAM** SHOULD BRING HIM ABOARD THE HELI-CARRIER ANY **SECOND** NOW!

I'VE GOT **NEWS** FOR YOU, GAFF!

HE'S ALREADY **HERE**...

"...AND I **DON'T** THINK HE'S TOO **HAPPY** ABOUT IT!"

WHERE IS HULK **NOW**? WHY HAVE LITTLE MEN **BROUGHT** HULK HERE?

SO! IT IS ROSS WHO BROUGHT HULK HERE! ROSS-- THE ONE HULK HATES MOST OF ALL!!

SEND HULK BACK NOW-- OR HULK WILL SMASH YOU ALL!!

HULK-- WAIT! PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND--!

HULK UNDERSTANDS ALL HULK NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND!

YOU BROUGHT HULK HERE WHEN HULK DID NOT WANT TO COME...

KRUNCH!

...AND NOW HULK IS LEAVING!!

SKRAKT!

HUH?

WHAT HAVE THEY DONE WITH THE GROUND?

YOU DID THIS, ROSS--TRAPPED HULK HERE, HIGH ABOVE GROUND!

LET HULK GO-- OR HULK WILL CRUSH YOU!!

YOU'VE BEEN MAKING THREATS LIKE THAT FOR YEARS, MONSTER!

IT'S FINALLY TIME TO SEE IF YOU'VE GOT THE GUTS TO BACK 'EM UP!

BAH! HULK WILL SHOW YOU HULK MEANS WHAT HULK SAYS, ROSS--

--AND IT WILL BE THE LAST THING YOU EVER SEE!!

HAS ROSS GONE CRAZY?

NO, GAFF-- I'M AFRAID HE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT HE'S DOING!

"FROM HERE ON, ALL *WE* CAN DO IS *BACK HIM UP* AS BEST WE *CAN!*"

MY PLAN IS *WORKING!* I'VE MADE THE HULK *MAD* ENOUGH TO *FOLLOW* ME-- WHICH WASN'T ALL THAT *DIFFICULT!*

NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS *LEAD* HIM TO THE *BI-BEAST*-- BEFORE HE CATCHES *ME!*

WE CAN *FOLLOW* THE CHASE FROM HERE ON THE *TELE-MONITORS!*

GREAT! THEN WE'D BETTER CALL OUT THE FIRST *DIVERSION!*

THE GENERAL CAN'T *OUT-DISTANCE* THAT BRUTE *FOREVER!*

GO AHEAD, ROSS--*RUN!* RUN AS *FAST* AS YOU CAN-- BUT YOU CAN *NEVER* ESCAPE FROM *HULK!*

AND WHEN HULK *CATCHES* YOU, YOU WILL *REGRET* WHAT YOU HAVE *DONE!*

BUT AS THE WEARY MILITARY MAN ROUNDS A BLIND *CORNER*...

KEEP *GOING*, SIR!

ZAK!

ZAK!

ZAK!

WE'LL DEAL WITH THIS BIG GREEN *MONSTER!!*

BAH! ROSS IS NOT *STRONG* ENOUGH TO *FACE* HULK BY *HIMSELF!*

HE LETS *OTHER* PUNY HUMANS DO HIS FIGHTING *FOR* HIM!

SPAK!

SPAK!

SPAK!

BUT *ALL* THE PUNY HUMANS IN THE *WORLD* WILL NOT *SAVE* YOU FROM HULK *THIS* TIME, ROSS!

WHOOMP!

*SAVAGELY, THE TWO MIGHTIEST **HANDS** IN ALL THE WORLD ARE SLAMMED **TOGETHER**--*

*--AND THE AWESOME **POWER** THUS UNLEASHED TRANSFORMS THE HELI-CARRIER HALLWAY INTO A MAKESHIFT **WIND TUNNEL!***

TH-THERE HE *GOES!* HE'S SO INTENT ON THE *GENERAL*, HE'S ALREADY *FORGOTTEN* US!

I JUST HOPE WE DELAYED HIM *LONG* ENOUGH!

DID THEY, GAFFER?

NOT *REALLY*, CLAY BOYCHIK...

...BUT WE'VE STILL GOT ANOTHER *TRICK* OR TWO UP OUR SLEEVE!

HUH? NOW BIG METAL *BARS* TRY TO KEEP HULK FROM ROSS!

KLANG!

BUT *NOTHING* WILL STOP HULK NOW!

NOTHING!!

SKR ANG!

*WITH A SPEED EVEN **HE** NO LONGER KNEW HE POSSESSED, GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS RACES DOGGEDLY ALONG THE SKYCRAFT'S TWISTING **CORRIDORS**, UNTIL HE SUDDENLY REACHES...*

A *DEAD END!!*

THIS IS AS FAR AS I CAN *GO!*

NOT THAT *MORE* ROOM WOULD MAKE ANY *DIFFERENCE* NOW--!

I'M TOO *EXHAUSTED* TO TAKE ANOTHER *STEP!*

THERE IS NOWHERE *LEFT* FOR YOU TO *RUN*, ROSS! NOW *YOU* ARE THE ONE WHO IS *TRAPPED!*

HOW DOES IT *FEEL*, ROSS...TO BE *CORNERED*...TO BE *CAGED*?

DO YOU KNOW NOW HOW *HULK* FELT? DO YOU *KNOW* NOW WHY HULK *HATES* YOU SO?

C'MON, QUARTER-MAIN-- THROW THE *SWITCH!*

MY LIFE *DEPENDS* ON IT!

MAYBE HULK WILL NOT SMASH YOU *QUICKLY*, ROSS! MAYBE HULK WILL TAKE THE TIME TO MAKE YOU *SUFFER* FOR...

HUH? ANOTHER METAL DOOR-- *BEHIND* HULK!?!

KLANG!

YOU *TRICKED* HULK, ROSS-- *AGAIN!!*

EH? A TRAP-DOOR-- OPEN-ING *BENEATH* ME!

QUARTERMAIN AND HIS FRIEND CAME *THRU!*

AND, IN THE INSTANT IT REQUIRES FOR THE HULK TO TURN HIS ATTENTION BACK FROM THE NEW BARRIER BEHIND HIM, THE TRAP-DOOR CLOSES, AND...

ROSS IS *GONE?!?*

BUT *WHERE??*

IF ROSS WENT THRU WALL IN *FRONT* OF HULK, HULK WILL *FOLLOW*--

WHAM!

WHAM!

--AND HULK WILL *SMASH!!*

WELCOME *BACK*, GENERAL BUBBIE. LOOKS LIKE YOUR LITTLE PLAN IS *WORKING!*

DON'T COUNT IT A *SUCCESS* TOO *SOON*, MISTER!

"THE HULK *STILL* HAS TO REACT AS WE *HOPE* HE WILL...

"...WHEN HE *SMASHES* THRU THAT *WALL* BEFORE HIM...

THRAM!

"...AND FINDS HIMSELF FACING THE BI-BEAST!"

YOU!

HULK KNOWS YOU, TWO-HEADS!

LIKE THE ONE CALLED ROSS, YOU ARE HULK'S ENEMY!!

BY THE ETERNAL! IT'S -- THE HULK!!

BUT WHAT IS HE DOING HERE, WARRIOR?

I DO NOT KNOW, SKULL-BROTHER--

--BUT WE CANNOT ALLOW HIM TO INTERFERE WITH OUR CAREFULLY-LAID PLANS!

TAK!

ZAK!

ZAK!

ZAK!

HUH? GUNS COME OUT OF WALL-- TRYING TO KILL HULK--!?!

ZAK!

ZAK!

ZAK!

INDEED, MAN-BRUTE! AND EVEN IF THOSE POWERFUL LASERS CANNOT PENETRATE YOUR WRETCHED EMERALD SKIN--

--THE OVERWHELMING HEAT THEY GENERATE CAN STILL BOIL THE BLOOD WITHIN YOU!!

AARRGGHHH

NEXT ISSUE (ASSUMING JADE-JAWS LIVES THAT LONG):

IT'S SHIELD VS. THE BI-BEAST FOR THE LIFE OF THE EARTH! BE HERE FOR...

"COUNTDOWN TO CATASTROPHE!"

INCREDIBLE HULK®

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THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

UNLEASHED!

MILES ABOVE THE EARTH, MAN-BRUTE BATTLES BI-BEAST-- WHILE THE GIANT SHIELD HELI-CARRIER PLUMMETS TOWARDS CERTAIN DOOM!!

COUNTDOWN TO CATASTROPHE!

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE INCREDIBLE HULK!** TM

LEN WEIN * SAL BUSCEMA & ERNIE CHAN * GLYNIS WEIN * JOHN COSTANZA
WRITER/EDITOR — ILLUSTRATORS EXTRAORDINAIRE — colorist — letterer

COUNTDOWN TO CATASTROPHE!

YOU DARED DEFY THE ***BI-BEAST***, HULK-- AND NOW YOU MUST PAY THE ***PRICE!***

EVEN IF THESE POWERFUL LASERS CANNOT ***PENETRATE*** YOUR WRETCHED EMERALD ***SKIN***--

--THE OVERWHELMING ***HEAT*** THEY GENERATE CAN STILL ***BOIL THE BLOOD WITHIN YOU!***

CONFUSED, FAITHFUL ONE? WELL, ***DON'T*** BE. JUST TURN THE ***PAGE***--AND WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO BRING YOU ***UP TO DATE!***

IT BEGAN WITH THE BIZARRE **BI-BEAST** GAINING CONTROL OF THE **SHIELD HELI-CARRIER**--AND THREATENING TO DESTROY THE **EARTH!** THERE WAS NOTHING **SHIELD** COULD DO TO **STOP** HIM...

...SO, IN **DESPERATION,** THEY SUMMONED THE **HULK!**

HE HAD SEEMED THEIR ONLY **HOPE,** THE ONLY BEING IN ALL THE WORLD WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO **WITH-STAND** THE AWE-SOME **WEAPONRY** AT THE BI-BEAST'S **COMMAND...**

...BUT **NOW,** ALAS, IT APPEARS THAT HOPE IS **LOST...**

...SO THE THREE UNLIKELY **ARCHITECTS** OF THIS INSANE SITUATION CONSIDER THEIR NEXT **MOVE!**

SWEET LORD, GENERAL ROSS--THE BI-BEAST IS **KILL-ING** HIM!

AND IT'S ALL MY **FAULT,** QUARTERMAIN!

THERE MAY STILL BE A WAY TO **SAVE** THE HULK, GENERAL--THE SAME WAY WE SAVED **YOU** FROM **HIM***--

--BUT THERE'LL BE A LOTTA **RISK** INVOLVED!

*LAST ISH.--LEN.

HANG THE RISK, GAFFER--JUST **DO** IT! I OWE THE POOR BRUTE **THAT** MUCH AT LEAST!

I'M WAY **AHEAD** OF YA, BUBBALA! ACTIVATING--**NOW!**

THAK!

YOUR **STAMINA** IS ASTONISHING, HULK! ANY **OTHER** CREATURE WOULD HAVE LONG SINCE **SUCCUMBED** TO THE LETHAL **LASER-LIGHT!**

BUT A FEW MOMENTS **LONGER,** AND EVEN **YOU** SHALL CEASE TO...

BUT THE BI-BEAST'S FATAL **PREDICTION** GOES UNFULFILLED, AS THE VERY **FLOOR** BENEATH THE SIZZLING GREEN GOLIATH ABRUPTLY **PARTS**--

--PLUNGING THE SEMI-CONSCIOUS HULK INTO A YAWNING **ABYSS**--

--AND PLUNGING THE **BI-BEAST** INTO A FURIOUS **RAGE**!

NO! WE WILL NOT BE THWARTED **NOW!**

CALM YOURSELF, SKULL-BROTHER! THE DAY WILL YET BE **OURS!**

WHILE, SEVERAL LEVELS **BELOW**...

YOU **DID** IT, GAFF--HE'S **SAFE!**

NO, CLAY-- DON'T **TOUCH** HIM!

HIS SKIN IS STILL **BOILING HOT** FROM THE LASER ASSAULT!

THEN WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO **DO** WITH HIM?

I...DON'T **KNOW,** BOYCHIK.

SWAK

WELL, **HULK** KNOWS, LITTLE MEN!

YOU WILL LEAVE HULK **ALONE!!**

HULK DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO **BI-BEAST**--

--BUT HULK HAS FOUND **ROSS** AGAIN, THE ONE HULK **HATES** MOST IN ALL THE WORLD--

UURRKK!!

--AND THAT IS **ENOUGH!!**

PUT ME **DOWN,** HULK! LET ME **GO!!**

BAH! HULK HAS WAITED A LONG **TIME** FOR THIS, ROSS--

--TO HAVE YOU IN HULK'S **HANDS,** WHERE HULK CAN **CRUSH** YOU LIKE A **BUG!**

HULK WANTS *REVENGE*, ROSS-- AND NOW HULK WILL *HAVE* IT!

WHY?

HUH?

I ASKED "*WHY*," HULK! WHY DO YOU WANT TO *HURT* SOMEONE WHO ONLY WANTED YOUR *HELP*?

ROSS WANTS HULK'S... *HELP*?

ROSS?

WHAT HELP?

YOU'VE GOT TO *PREVENT* THE BI-BEAST FROM LAUNCHING THE HELI-CARRIER'S *NUCLEAR MISSILES* AGAINST THE EARTH--

--OR EVERYTHING AND *EVERYONE* YOU KNOW IS GOING TO *DIE*!!

DIE?

*AT THE WORD, THE MAN-BRUTE **PAUSES**-- AND THE **MEMORIES** COME UNBIDDEN! BETTY ROSS... YOUNG JIM WILSON... HIS **FRIENDS**... IF **EVERYONE** DIES, THEN **THEY** MUST DIE AS WELL...*

*...AND **THAT**, HE CANNOT **ALLOW**!*

HULK... WILL *HELP* YOU.

*AND JUST IN **TIME**, TOO!*

THOSE OF *YOUR* WORLD ARE RE-SPONSIBLE FOR DESTROYING OUR *ISLAND-IN-THE-SKY!* *

*NOW THE SCALES OF JUSTICE SHALL AT LAST BE **BALANCED**!*

*YOUR NUCLEAR MISSILE **OMNI-LAUNCH SEQUENCE** HAS BEEN COMPUTER-ACTIVATED--AND THE PLANET EARTH IS **DOOMED**!*

*AS EXPLAINED LAST ISH.--L.

*BATTLE STATIONS! CONDITION **RED**! OMNI-LAUNCH SEQUENCE MINUS **TEN MINUTES**-- AND **COUNTING**!*

AND THERE'S NO WAY ON EARTH THAT ORDER CAN BE *CANCELLED*!

WHILE, SEVERAL THOUSAND MILES AWAY...

I'D HOPED HE MIGHT TALK IN HIS SLEEP--

--BUT NO SUCH LUCK!

TO LOOK AT HIM, YOU'D NEVER KNOW HE WAS A COMPLETE CYPHER--A MAN WHO HAS NO IDEA WHO HE IS OR WHERE HE COMES FROM!

I'VE BEEN STRUGGLING DESPERATELY TO RESTORE HIS MEMORY --BUT IT'S AS IF THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE HIM FIGHTING ME...

...TRYING TO PREVENT ME FROM LEARNING THE TRUTH!

BUT EVEN AS THE EMERALD-TRESSED DOC SAMSON STRIDES AWAY INTO THE COOL NEW MEXICAN NIGHT, HIS AMNESIAC PATIENT ABRUPTLY BOLTS UPRIGHT IN BED--

--HIS EYES WIDE AND GLASSY!

SILENTLY, THE ENIGMATIC FIGURE SLIDES OPEN HIS WINDOW AND STEALS OUT INTO THE DARKNESS...

...MOVING LIKE SOME GHOSTLY APPARITION ACROSS THE SPRAWLING EXPANSE THAT IS THE PARA-MILITARY INSTALLATION CODE-NAMED GAMMA BASE--

--UNTIL HE REACHES THE LAB BUILDING THAT IS OBVIOUSLY HIS GOAL!

ENCE
LDING
TRICTED

AS IF DIRECTED BY SOME SECRET INNER VOICE, HE SLIPS PAST THE UNSUSPECTING GUARDS, AND MAKES HIS WAY UP TOWARDS A LOCKED AND BOLTED DOOR--

TOP SECRET KEEP OUT

--WHERE, WITH A SKILL AND FINESSE THAT WOULD MAKE WILLIE SUTTON JEALOUS, HE SWIFTLY PICKS THE COMPLICATED LOCK...

...AND LETS HIMSELF INTO THE ROOM...

TOP SECRET KEEP OUT

...SHUTTING THE DOOR ONCE MORE BEHIND HIM!

BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, THAT'S ALL THE TIME WE CAN **DEVOTE** TO GAMMA BASE RIGHT NOW--

--SINCE TIME IS RAPIDLY **RUNNING OUT** ABOARD THE HIGH-FLYING **SHIELD HELI-CARRIER!**

THERE'S NO WAY TO **REVERSE** THE OMNI-LAUNCH SEQUENCE ONCE IT'S **BEGUN!**

OUR ONLY **HOPE** IS TO REACH THE SHIP'S **COMPUTER CORE** IN TIME TO EFFECT SOME SORT OF **SHORT-CIRCUIT!**

THE OMNI-LAUNCH COUNTDOWN NOW STANDS AT **MINUS SIX MINUTES--** AND **COUNTING!**

IF YOU ABOARD THIS VESSEL WORSHIP ANY **GOD** OR **DIETY,** WE SUGGEST YOU USE THE TIME REMAINING TO MAKE YOUR FINAL **PEACE!**

BAH!

HULK WILL LEAVE BI-BEAST IN **PIECES,** WHEN HULK FINALLY **FINDS** HIM!

NO! WE'RE **TOO LATE!** THE **AUTO-DEFENSES** HAVE BECOME **OPERATIONAL!**

WHEN THAT TITANIUM-STEEL **IRIS-PORT** CLOSES, WE'LL **NEVER** GET THRU TO...

EH?

LITTLE MAN WORRIES ABOUT BIG ROUND **DOOR** CLOSING?

DOOR IS **STRONG--** BUT HULK IS **STRONGER!**

I **BELIEVE** YOU, GREENIE!

COME ON, EVERYONE-- LET'S **MOVE IT!**

THEN HULK WILL HOLD PUNY DOOR **OPEN--** UNTIL LITTLE MEN GET **THRU!**

WE ALL *SAFE?* SWELL. THEN FOLLOW *ME!*

WE'VE GOT LESS THAN *FOUR MINUTES* LEFT!

SEE, LITTLE MEN? HULK *TOLD* YOU HULK COULD HOLD PUNY *DOOR* OPEN!

HULK WAS *STRONGER* THAN DOOR! HULK IS STRONGER THAN *ANY...*

HUH?

KLOMP!

DOOR HAS *CLOSED* ON HULK'S *ARM*-- HOLDING HULK *TIGHT*--!

BUT HULK DOES NOT HAVE ANY MORE TIME TO *WASTE* NOW!

SO IF PUNY DOOR THINKS IT HAS *CAUGHT* HULK...

RRAKK!

...DOOR IS *WRONG!*

OMNI-LAUNCH SEQUENCE MINUS *THREE MINUTES*--AND *COUNTING!*

IT'LL TAKE SEVERAL SECONDS FOR THE ELECTRO-LOCK TO *DISENGAGE*-- BUT THEN WE'RE *HOME FREE!*

THE HELI-CARRIER'S MAIN *COMPUTER CORE COMPLEX* IS RIGHT BEHIND THIS DOOR!

ALL *I* WANT TO KNOW IS--WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO *DO* WHEN WE *GET* THERE?

THE SECONDS PASS LIKE CENTURIES, AS THESE FOUR STRANGE BED-FELLOWS WAIT FOR THE MASSIVE DOOR TO OPEN--

--UNTIL, EVEN AS THE IMPATIENT HULK LUMBERS FORTH TO SHATTER THIS FINAL BARRIER TO THEIR PROGRESS, THE THICK METALLIC PORTAL HISSES WIDE...

...TO ADMIT THE DESPERATE QUARTET INTO A TECHNOLOGICAL WONDERLAND!

BY JUPITER! HOW LARGE IS THIS THING?

OH, TEN... FIFTEEN STORIES, GIVE OR TAKE A FEW! BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT NOW!

WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS DISCONNECTING THE COMPUTER'S PRIMARY MOTIVATIONAL CIRCUITRY BEFORE IT CAN LAUNCH THOSE MISSILES!

THE OMNI-LAUNCH PROGRAM IS COMPRISED OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AIMED AT EVERY MAJOR FOREIGN CAPITAL IN THE WORLD! IT'S...

OMNI-LAUNCH SEQUENCE MINUS NINETY SECONDS-- AND COUNTING!

GOTTENYU! WHAT AM I JABBERING ABOUT?

IF YOU'RE GOING TO HELP US, HULK--THE TIME IS NOW!

THE PRIMARY MOTIVATIONAL MODULE IS NEAR THE *TOP* OF THE CONSOLE!

YOU'VE GOT TO *REACH* IT, HULK--BEFORE IT'S *TOO LATE!*

THEN THAT IS WHAT HULK WILL *DO!*

*HIS JACKHAMMER FINGERS GOUGING **HANDHOLDS** INTO THE METAL, THE GREEN GOLIATH MAKES HIS WAY RELENTLESSLY TOWARDS HIS **GOAL**--*

--UNTIL, AT LAST...

*OMNI-LAUNCH SEQUENCE MINUS **THIRTY SECONDS**--AND **COUNTING!***

HULK HAS REACHED YOUR *MACHINE!* LITTLE MAN! WHAT DOES HULK DO *NOW?*

*"NO TIME TO **DISCONNECT** IT," THE GAFFER SHOUTS URGENTLY. "YOU'LL HAVE TO **DESTROY** IT!"*

SMASH MACHINE? NOW *THAT* IS SOMETHING HULK *UNDERSTANDS!*

*AND THE SPEAKER ON THE WALL SAYS MERELY, "**FIFTEEN SECONDS**--AND **COUNTING!**"*

*BUT EVEN AS THE JADE-HUED GIANT **GRASPS** THE COMPLEX MECHANISM...*

AARRGGHH!! MACHINE *SHOCKS* HULK--TRIES TO MAKE HULK *LET GO--!*

BUT HULK CANNOT *GIVE UP!*

FIVE SECONDS--AND COUNTING!

HULK *NEVER* GIVES *UP!*

FOUR SECONDS...

...THREE...

...TWO...

SHRAK!

SKWEEEEE

AND WITH THE PRIMARY MOTIVATIONAL CIRCUITRY **RUINED** MILLISECONDS BEFORE **IGNITION**, THE OMNI-LAUNCH SEQUENCE STOPS **DEAD**...

WHUMP!

...BUT SO, UNFORTUNATELY, DOES THE WHOLE BLAMED **HELI-CARRIER!**

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE ITS **CREATION**, THE MONSTROUS SKY-CRAFT'S HUGE **ROTOR BLADES** CEASE THEIR TIRELESS **WHIRLING**...

...BUT EVEN AS THE VESSEL BEGINS TO PLUMMET **EARTHWARD**, SECONDARY **POWER SYSTEMS** CUT IN--ACTIVATING EMERGENCY **TURBO-PROPS**, DESIGNED TO KEEP THE HELI-CARRIER **AIRBORNE** UNTIL REPAIRS CAN BE MADE...

...REPAIRS WHICH ARE **ALREADY** UNDER WAY!

THERE! THE POWER'S BACK ON--AND SO ARE THE LIGHTS--BUT IT'S ONLY A **TEMPORARY** MEASURE!

I'VE GOT TO WORK OUT SEVERAL **BYPASSES** THAT'LL REACTIVATE THE HELI-CARRIER'S **PRIMARY POWER**--

--**WITHOUT** REACTIVATING THE **OMNI-LAUNCH SEQUENCE!**

QUARTERMAIN, THIS IS THE **MASTER CONTROL ROOM!** WE BROKE IN HERE DURING THE **BLACK-OUT** JUST NOW--

--BUT THAT BLASTED **BI-BEAST** IS... **GONE!**

GREAT! THAT'S ALL WE **NEEDED!**

I WANT THAT MONSTER **FOUND**, FELLA--AND I WANT HIM FOUND **FAST!**

THEN YOUR SEARCH IS ALREADY **OVER**, CLAY QUARTERMAIN...

EH?

BY GADFREY!

... FOR THE BI-BEAST IS HERE!!

YOU HAVE RUINED ALL OUR CAREFULLY-LAID PLANS-- BUT WE STILL SHALL HAVE OUR REVENGE!

LOOK OUT, ALL! HE'S WEARING THE EXPERIMENTAL BATTLE-VEST TONY STARK LEFT WITH US FOR TESTING!

WITH THAT THING ON, HE'S BECOME A ONE-MAN ARMY!!

RRUNCHH!

FOOL! EVEN WITHOUT THIS WONDROUS GARB, THE BI-BEAST IS MORE THAN A MATCH FOR SUCH AS YOU!

YOU HAVE DEFIED US, HUMAN--AND NOW YOU WILL PAY!

WILL YOU GET YOUR SHINY HEAD DOWN, GAFF?

SKROOM!

UUNNFF!!

THANKS, CLAY BOYCHIK-- BUT I WAS ALREADY DUCKING!

SO, BI-BEAST--YOU HAVE COME BACK!

YOU HURT HULK BEFORE, BI-BEAST-- HURT HULK BAD!

NOW IT IS HULK'S TURN TO HURT YOU!!

THWUMP!

LIKE SOME GREAT GREEN JUGGERNAUT, THE MAN-BRUTE HURTLES INTO HIS TWO-HEADED FOE, THE SHEER MOMENTUM CARRYING THEM BOTH BACK ACROSS THE CHAMBER--

KROM!

--AND THRU THE SEALED DOOR OF A NEARBY ELEVATOR!

IF THOSE TWO MONSTERS GET IN MY WAY, THIS WHOLE FERSHLUGGINER HELI-CARRIER IS FINISHED!

YOU'VE GOTTA GET 'EM OUTTA HERE, CLAY!

WHATEVER YOU SAY, GAFF...

...BUT I DOUBT THEY'RE GOING TO LIKE IT!

ELEVATOR

THAK!

AND EVEN AS CLAY QUARTERMAIN ACTIVATES THE ELEVATOR, THE GAFFER FEEDS TEMPORARY POWER TO THE DAMAGED VEHICLE--

--UNTIL IT ROCKETS UPWARD AND AWAY!

ON THE NOW-DESERTED AIRCRAFT DECK, THE GRINDING WHIRR OF SWIFTLY-SPINNING GEARS CAN BE HEARD AS THE HIGH-SPEED ELEVATOR DRAWS CLOSER--

--AND THE SOUND OF FURY AND THUNDER CAN BE HEARD WHEN IT ARRIVES!

SKRAKK!

FOR SEVERAL MOMENTS, THE BATTLE CONTINUES UNINTERRUPTED, BOTH COMBATANTS TOO FURIOUS TO EVEN NOTICE THEIR NEW BATTLE-GROUND...

THWOOM!

BUT THEN...

BEHOLD, SKULL-BROTHER--ONCE MORE THE SKY IS OURS!

HUH? WHERE IS HULK NOW?

STANDING ON YOUR FUNERAL GROUND, FOOL!

BROK!

INCREDIBLE! THE MAN-BRUTE RISES TO HIS FEET--AND STRUGGLES TO PURSUE US!

BUT WE ARE THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF THE ACCUMULATED KNOW-LEDGE OF A LONG-DEAD RACE--

--AND THOUGH THE MECHANISM WHICH CONTROLS THIS WINGED VEHICLE MIGHT SEEM COM-PLEX TO SOME...

"...IT IS LESS THAN CHILD'S PLAY FOR THE BI-BEAST TO IGNITE ITS ROCKET-ENGINES...

WHROSH!

AARRRGGH!!

"...SO THAT IT MAY INCINER-ATE THE MIND-LESS HULK BEFORE HE CAN RENEW OUR MEANINGLESS CONFLICT!"

SHAKK!

MAN, YOU CAN *HEAR* THEM FIGHTING ALL THE WAY DOWN *HERE!*

BUT YOU MUSTN'T LET IT *DISTRACT* YOU, BOYCHIK.

THOSE *TURBO-PROPS* WON'T HOLD THIS HELI-CARRIER UP *FOREVER!*

WE'VE GOT TO *RESTORE* THE PRIMARY *POWER*-- AND *FAST!*

BI-BEAST TRIES TO *BURN* HULK--

SHAKK!

--BUT BI-BEAST HAS *FAILED!*

HULK IS *STRONGER* THAN FIRE!

RRAAK

HULK IS STRONGER THAN *BI-BEAST!*

HULK IS THE *STRONGEST* ONE THERE IS!!

RAK-KOOM!

POW!

MAN-BRUTE, YOU'RE NOT EVEN *CLOSE!*

TEARING UP A *RUNWAY* AND CRUSHING AN *AIRPLANE* DOES NOT MAKE YOU *STRONGER* THAN US, MONSTER!

THE ONE WHO IS *STRONGEST* IS THE ONE WHO IS STILL *STANDING* WHEN THE BATTLE IS FINALLY *DONE!*

ZZLAKK!

AND, HULK, THAT ONE SHALL BE THE *BI-BEAST!!*

SAVAGELY, THE JADE BEHEMOTH IS SLAMMED AGAINST ONE OF THE GIGANTIC TURBO-PROPS HOLDING THE HELI-CARRIER ALOFT...

AARRRGGHH!!

SKROOM!

...AND UNDER THE INCREDIBLE IMPACT OF THE HULK'S ALMOST-INDESTRUCTIBLE BODY, THE TURBO-PROP BUCKLES...

...THEN SPUTTERS...

...THEN STOPS...

... AND THE CITY-SIZED SHIELD SKYCRAFT BEGINS TO PLUMMET EARTHWARD LIKE SOME MONSTROUS WOUNDED BIRD!

THUNDER AND DAMNATION! W-WE'RE FALLING!

BUT THAT'S CRAZY!! I'VE COMPLETED THE BYPASS CIRCUITS! WE'RE ALMOST READY TO ACTIVATE!

THEN DO IT, MAN-- DO IT!

GENERAL, WE CAN'T! THE HULK IS STILL ON THE LAUNCH-DECK!

WE ACTIVATE THE ROTORS NOW-- AND THE SUDDEN SHOCK MAY THROW HIM OFF!

IT'S HIS LIFE AGAINST HUNDREDS -- MAYBE THOUSANDS-- OF OTHERS!

I DON'T LIKE IT ANY MORE THAN YOU DO, BUT WE HAVEN'T ANY CHOICE!

DO IT, GAFFER-- NOW!

I'M DOING IT, GENERAL--AND MAY GOD FORGIVE ME!

ENOUGH!!

THIS TIME, BI-BEAST-- HULK WILL FINISH YOU!

ENRAGED, THE GREEN GOLIATH LAUNCHES HIMSELF ACROSS THE CARRIER-DECK--

--EVEN AS THE SKYCRAFT'S AWESOME ROTOR BLADES ABRUPTLY BEGIN TO SPIN ONCE MORE--

--HALTING THE HELI-CARRIER'S GROUNDWARD PLUNGE-- STRAINING DESPERATELY TO GAIN THE SKY...

...BUT THE HULK DOES NOT SEE THIS THROUGH THE BLOOD-RED HAZE OF BATTLE CLOUDING HIS EYES!

HE SEES NOTHING, SAVE THE HIDEOUS TWO-FACED FIGURE BEFORE HIM--THE CREATURE HE WANTS ONLY TO SMASH!

AND PERHAPS THAT IS WHY **NEITHER** OF THEM IS VERY SECURELY **BRACED**, WHEN THE HELI-CARRIER SUDDENLY **LURCHES**--

--AND SENDS THE TWO COMBATANTS TUMBLING MADLY INTO THE **VOID**--

--WHERE THEY PLUNGE INTO A SHIMMERING **CLOUDBANK** THAT COVERS THE **EARTH** SPINNING SO VERY FAR BELOW--

--AND ARE SWIFTLY LOST FROM **SIGHT!**

WITHIN MINUTES, THE HELI-CARRIER IS RUNNING **SMOOTHLY** ONCE MORE--

--AS HIGHLY-SKILLED **TECH-TEAMS** MOVE THRU THE SHIP, GRADUALLY RESTORING **ORDER.**

AND THROUGHOUT THE SHIP, EVERYONE RAISES THEIR VOICES IN **CELEBRATION...**

CONGRATULATIONS, GAFF. I KNEW YOU COULD **DO** IT!

EVERYONE, THAT IS, SAVE **ONE!**

ONE MAN WHO HAS **SEEN** HIS DUTY, AND HAS **DONE** IT--

--AND NOW WILL HAVE TO **LIVE** WITH IT FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!

NEXT ISSUE: THEY CALL IT... **THE CIRCUS OF LOST SOULS!** BE HERE-- AND YOU'LL FIND OUT **WHY!**

INCREDIBLE HULK®

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THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

CIRCUS OF LOST SOULS!

TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY IN THE MARVEL MANNER!

EVEN IF YOU ESCAPE, HULK-- THOSE YOU CARE FOR ARE DOOMED!!

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LEN WEIN / WRITER / EDITOR
SAL BUSCEMA & ERNIE CHAN / ARTISTS / ILLUSTRATORS
GLYNIS WEIN • COLORIST
JOHN COSTANZA • LETTERER

THE SEA: OLDER THAN TIME, YET ETERNAL!

SINCE THIS PLANET'S MOLTEN CRUST FIRST COOLED, AND THE CEASELESS RAINS CEASED FALLING, IT HAS STOOD MUTE WITNESS TO DESTINY'S TRIUMPHS-- AND ITS TRAGEDIES.

EVEN AS THE FIRST UNWARY AIR-BREATHING CREATURE WAS THRUST ALONE INTO THE LIGHT, EACH NEW WAVE CASTS COUNTLESS SCRAPS OF FORGOTTEN FLOTSAM AND JETSAM UPON AN UNFORGIVING SHORE.

THE CIRCUS OF LOST SOULS!

THE SEA GIVETH, AND THE SEA TAKETH AWAY -- BUT RARELY HAS IT EVER CAST ASHORE FLOTSAM SUCH AS THIS!

WH-WHERE IS HULK *NOW*?

WHAT HAS *HAPPENED* TO HULK?

"*HULK REMEMBERS* FIGHTING *BI-BEAST* ON BIG FLYING *SHIP*...

"...THEN *FLYING* THRU *SKY**..."

**LAST ISH. --LEN.*

...AND NOW HULK WAKES UP ON *BEACH!*

HULK DOES NOT *LIKE* BEACH-- TOO MUCH *SAND* --SO HULK WILL GO SOMEWHERE *ELSE!*

THE SAND GIVES WAY TO VERDANT FOLIAGE, AND THE GREEN GOLIATH LUMBERS ON UNTIL...

SNIFF SNIFF

HULK SMELLS *FOOD*... AND HULK IS *HUNGRY!*

BUT WHEREVER THERE IS *FOOD*, THERE ARE ALSO *PUNY HUMANS!*

WHAT SHOULD HULK *DO?*

BAH! IF PUNY HUMANS TRY TO *KEEP* HULK FROM FOOD, HULK WILL JUST *SMASH* THEM LIKE... *HUH?*

THERE... THRU *TREES*... HULK SEES *LIGHT!*

CAUTIOUSLY, THE MAN-BRUTE APPROACHES THE SHADOWED CLEARING, SEEKING NOTHING MORE THAN SUSTENANCE...

?

...BUT WHAT HE FINDS IS SOMETHING OF AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT COLOR!

IT IS...*WAGON!*

PRETTY WAGON!

CIRCUS

HULK DOES NOT KNOW WHAT WAGON IS *DOING* HERE IN FOREST, BUT MAYBE HULK CAN...

HUH?

LITTLE MEN *ATTACK* HULK FROM *SHADOWS*--!?

BUT PUNY HUMANS CANNOT *HOLD* HULK!!

HULK ONLY WANTED *FOOD*--BUT IF PUNY HUMANS WANT *FIGHT*, THEN HULK WILL *GIVE* IT TO...

HUH?.

Y-YOU ARE NOT *PUNY HUMANS!*

WHAT *ARE* YOU?

WE WERE *ABOUT* TO ASK THE SAME THING OF *YOU!*

DEAR HEAVEN, STILTS--HE'S A *MONSTER!*

IF *HE* IS A MONSTER, DEAR BLOSSOM--WHAT ARE *WE?*

WELL, *WHATEVER* HE IS, REX--HE DON'T SCARE *MAJOR MINOR!*

FORGIVE US FOR *ATTACKING* YOU, FELLA -- BUT WE THOUGHT YOU WERE ONE OF *THEM*.

THEM *WHO*? HULK IS ONLY... *HULK*.

SO IT *SEEMS* -- BUT WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* IN THESE PARTS, MY FRIEND?

YOU CALLED HULK... *FRIEND*?

AND WHY *NOT*? WE'RE ALL FRIENDS HERE -- ALL OF US *DIFFERENT* ONES.

YES, *PLEASE* STAY, HULK -- YOU'RE *WELCOME* HERE.

LOOK, WHY DON'T YOU COME ALONG *WITH* US FOR A WHILE? WE COULD USE THE *COMPANY*.

AND FROM THE *LOOKS* OF YOU, YOU *BELONG* WITH US.

AND THE SMILE THAT CROSSES THE MAN-BRUTE'S LIPS COULD LIGHT UP THE SKY.

SORRY ABOUT THE *ACCOMODATIONS*, HULK -- BUT THIS *WAGON* IS ALL WE *HAVE* RIGHT NOW.

ALL OF YOU *LIVE* HERE?

YES, THE *FOUR* OF US -- AND ONE *OTHER*.

HULK, PERMIT ME TO INTRODUCE THE RADIANT *FLOWER* OF OUR LITTLE FAMILY.

HER NAME IS... *MERIAM*.

HUH?

*SHE **RECLINES** ON THE TATTERED SOFA LIKE SOME FRAGILE **GRECIAN SCULPTURE** -- HER **SKIN** FLAWLESS **ALABASTER**, HER **HAIR** THE FROTHING **FOAM** THAT CAPS A WAVE, HER **EYES** THE FATHOMLESS **DARKNESS** AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA --*

*--AND HER **VOICE**, WHEN SHE SPEAKS, THE **WHISPER** OF THE OCEAN IN A **CONCH SHELL**.*

COME *IN*, GOOD SIR -- AND MAKE THY-SELF TO *HOME*.

NO! GIRL IS NOT *LIKE* OTHERS --NOT LIKE *HULK!* GIRL IS... *BEAUTIFUL.*

HULK WAS *WRONG!* HULK CANNOT *STAY* HERE!

HEY-- WHY *NOT?* AFRAID ONE OF US'LL *BITE* YA?

YOU AIN'T GOIN' *NOPLACE!*

AYE, GOOD SIR--THERE IS NO *CAUSE* FOR THEE TO LEAVE. I AM NO LESS DIFFERENT THAN *THEE.*

YE ARE *ONE* OF US, GENTLE SIR... AND WE HAVE BEEN *WAITING* FOR THEE.

PLEASE.

GIRL DOES NOT WANT HULK TO *GO?*

NONE OF US DO, FRIEND.

THEN...FOR *GIRL...* HULK WILL *STAY.*

THE RISING SUN STEALS AWAY THE DARKNESS, AND THE ONE-WAGON CARAVAN AMBLES OFF ALONG A WINDING COUNTRY ROAD...

WITHIN THE WAGON, THE TIME IS PASSED IN CHEERFUL CONVERSATION, THE THUNDROUS SOUND OF HIS OWN LAUGHTER RINGING UNEXPECTEDLY IN THE GREEN GOLIATH'S EARS.

IT IS A GOOD FEELING, ONE THE MAN-BRUTE COMES TO CHERISH...

...AS HE COMES TO CHERISH THESE STRANGE PEOPLE.

HEY, YOU FOLKS BETTER GET *OUT* HERE! THE *BRIDGE* IS DOWN!

CIRCUS

BLAST, I *KNEW* THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN SOME DAY!

AND *WITHOUT* THAT BRIDGE, THERE'S *NO* WAY TO CROSS THIS *STREAM!*

HULK'S FRIENDS NEED *BRIDGE?*

SURE *DO,* HULK--OR ELSE OUR TRAIL ENDS RIGHT *HERE!*

THEN HULK WILL *GIVE* YOU BRIDGE!

WHAT *ARE* YOU-- A *MAGICIAN?* YOU GONNA PULL ONE OUTTA YER *HAT?*

NO... OUT OF GROUND!

HOLY COW! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

WRUNCH

FOR A MOMENT, THE INCREDIBLE HULK THOUGHTFULLY STUDIES THE UPROOTED TREE TRUNK, HIS EMERALD TONGUE PROTRUDING FROM THE CORNER OF HIS MOUTH--

--THEN, WITH ONE IMPOSSIBLY-POWERFUL STROKE...

THERE! FRIENDS WANTED BRIDGE...

NOW FRIENDS HAVE BRIDGE!!

THEN, LIKE A CHILD WHO HAS JUST LEARNED TO USE HIS FIRST EREC-TOR SET, THE MAN-BRUTE PROUDLY TURNS BACK TO HIS COM-PANIONS.

NOPE--I SIMPLY DO NOT BELIEVE IT.

HULK, I DON'T KNOW HOW WE EVER GOT ALONG WITH-OUT YOU.

AH, ANY HALF-TON GOR-ILLA COULD'A DONE THE SAME!

YOUR BIGGEST PROBLEM, MAJOR, IS THAT YOU DON'T SPEAK YOUR MIND!

CIRCUS

I'D TELL YA WHAT YOUR BIGGEST PROBLEM IS, FUR-FACE-- BUT THERE'S LADIES PRESENT!

THE REST OF THE DAY PASSES UNEVENTFULLY, AND WHEN NIGHT FALLS ONCE MORE...

YOU FINISHED YOUR DINNER QUICKLY, HULK.

FOOD WAS GOOD-- BUT BEANS ARE BETTER!

YA CAN'T EXACTLY CHOOSE YER MENU, JUMBO, WHEN YER ON THE RUN!

BUT *WHY* ARE YOU RUNNING?

IF SOMEONE IS *CHASING* YOU, TELL HULK *WHO*-- AND HULK WILL *SMASH!!*

MAN, YER A REAL *TOUGH* GUY, AIN'T YA?

I ALMOST WISH OUR PROBLEM COULD BE *RESOLVED* THAT *SIMPLY*, MY FRIEND!

PERHAPS IT IS TIME WE *EXPLAINED* OUR SITUATION!

WE WERE ALL IN THE SAME *SIDESHOW* WHEN IT BEGAN. THEY CALLED ME "*REX*, THE DOG-FACED BOY" --BUT I DIDN'T *MIND*,

IN LATIN, REX MEANS *KING!*

WE WERE WALKING ALONG THE *BEACH* WHEN WE FOUND *MERIAM* LYING IN THE *SAND*. WE DIDN'T KNOW WHO SHE *WAS*-- SO WE BROUGHT HER BACK TO *CAMP*.

WELL, WHEN THE RING-MASTER *SAW* HER, HE LOCKED HER *AWAY* --CLAIMED SHE WOULD MAKE HIM A *FORTUNE!*

REX, STILTS, AN' BLOSSOM WERE AFRAID HE MIGHT *HURT* MERIAM, SO THEY DECIDED TA *RUN AWAY*-- AN' YERS TRULY CAME ALONG TA *PROTECT* 'EM!

THAT'S ABOUT *ALL* THERE IS TO *TELL*, HULK. WE'VE BEEN *RUNNING* FROM OUR OLD CIRCUS EVER SINCE!

BUT EVEN *FUGITIVES* HAVE TO SLEEP *SOME-TIME!* I'M HITTING THE *SACK!*

YEAH-- THINK I'LL *JOIN* YA!

*AND SOON THE MASSIVE MAN-BRUTE IS **ALONE** WITH HIS JUMBLED **THOUGHTS**; HE DOES NOT FULLY **COMPREHEND** WHAT HIS NEW-FOUND FRIENDS HAVE **TOLD** HIM...*

*...BUT HE **DOES** KNOW THAT IF ANYTHING **DARES** TO THREATEN THEIR **SAFETY**, HE WILL NOT HESITATE TO DO WHATEVER **MUST** BE DONE TO **PROTECT** THEM.*

*HE DOES NOT, AFTER ALL, HAVE **MANY** FRIENDS--AND THUS, HE **COVETS** THOSE HE...*

DO I DISTURB THY *REVERIE*, GOOD SIR?

HUH? UH... *NO.* GIRL COULD NEVER DISTURB *HULK!*

THEN MAY I *JOIN* THEE?

*THE STARTLED HULK **HESITATES**... THEN **NODS**.*

WE KNOW SO LITTLE *ABOUT* THEE, HULK. WHERE DO YE *COME* FROM? WHERE ARE YE *BOUND?*

HULK DOES NOT *KNOW,* GIRL. HULK IS ONLY *LOOKING* FOR SOMEPLACE WHERE HULK CAN FIND *PEACE.*

SEE, MY FRIEND? I SAID WE WERE NOT TRULY *DIFFER-ENT!* WE *ALL* SEEK PEACE, GENTLE HULK--THOUGH EACH IN OUR OWN SEPARATE *WAY.*

THERE ARE SO MANY LOST AND LONELY *WANDERERS* UPON THE FACE OF THIS EARTH, GOOD SIR...

...AND I AM VERY *GLAD* THY WANDERING LED THEE *HERE!*

HULK IS GLAD *TOO,* GIRL. HULK IS... *HAPPY* HERE.

PLEASE, HULK--CALL ME *MERIAM.*

'TWOULD PLEASE ME GREATLY TO HEAR THEE SPEAK MY *NAME.*

AYE, 'TWOULD... 'TWOULD...

MERIAM, WHAT IS *WRONG?* YOU LOOK *SICK,* MERIAM! ARE YOU...?

NAY, MY FRIEND. 'TIS MERELY A PASSING...

OOOHHHH

MERIAM!!

AND THE MAN-MONSTER'S ANGUISHED CRIES BRING THE OTHERS RUNNING...

WHAT *IS* IT? WHAT'S *WRONG?*

LORD--*NO!* IT'S *MERIAM!* SHE'S HAVING ANOTHER OF HER *FAINTING SPELLS!*

HULK DOES NOT KNOW WHAT TO *DO!* PLEASE, FRIENDS--*HELP* HULK!

HELP *MERIAM!*

DON'T *WORRY,* HULK--THIS HAS HAPPENED *BEFORE!* SHE'LL GET *OVER* IT!

JUST GET HER INSIDE THE *WAGON*--AND WE'LL TAKE *CARE* OF HER!

AN' FER HEAVEN'S SAKE--DON'T *DROP* HER!

THESE COLD, WET *COMPRESSES* ALWAYS SEEM TO *HELP*. I JUST WISH I KNEW WHAT *CAUSES* THESE SPELLS.

THEY GET WORSE AND *WORSE* EVERY TIME.

SHE *WILL* BE ALL RIGHT AGAIN, BLOSSOM...

...*WON'T* SHE?

PLEASE--MERIAM *HAS* TO BE ALL RIGHT AGAIN! HULK HAS ALREADY LOST *ONE* GIRL!

HULK COULD NOT *BEAR* TO LOSE *ANOTHER*.

YOU MUST...

HUH?

WAGON IS *SHAKING*--?!?

NO! YOU'VE GOT TO *STOP* IT--BEFORE MERIAM GETS *HURT*!

SHAKING WILL *HURT* MERIAM? THEN HULK WILL *STOP* WAGON SHAKING--

--NO MATTER *WHAT* HULK MUST *DO*!!

KRASH!

WELL, FIRST, GREENSKIN--YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY *ALIVE*!!

HUH? GIANT *SNAKE* WRAPS ITSELF *AROUND* HULK--

--TRIES TO *CRUSH* HULK!!

GO ON, MY PET-- *DESTROY* HIM!!

WHY ALL THE *NOISE*, HULK? WHAT'S *GOING ON* OUT...*NO!*

SWEET MERCY-- IT'S *THEM!* THEY'VE *FOUND* US AGAIN!

AN' THEY'RE *MURDERIN'* OUR BIG GREEN *BUDDY!*

HANG ON, HULK! WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN TO *HELP* YOU!

WHAM!

YOU FREAKS AIN'T DOING NOTHING ABOUT *NOTHING*--

--NOT SO LONG AS *CANNONBALL* IS AROUND TO *STOP* YOU!

BAH! TRYING TO KILL *HULK* IS BAD ENOUGH, BUT WHEN LITTLE MEN TRY TO HURT HULK'S *FRIENDS*--

--THEN HULK GETS *MAD!!*

BUT YOUR *ANGER* ACCOUNTS FOR VERY *LITTLE* HERE, MONSTER! IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE LAST WE *MET**--

--BUT THE POWER OF THE *RINGMASTER* IS STILL POWER TO BE *RECKONED WITH!*

HUH?

* SINCE *HULK* #3, RIGHT? --LEN.

LOOK INTO MY *EYES*, HULK! SEE THE PRETTY SPINNING *COLORS!* SEE THE FLASHING *STARS* AND *LIGHTS!*

LOOK INTO MY *EYES*, HULK--AND YOU WILL BE FOREVER *MINE!*

THERE! IT IS *DONE!* THE MINDLESS BRUTE IS COMPLETELY UNDER MY *HYP-NOTIC CONTROL!*

AND I'VE GOT THE *GIRL* YOU WANTED, CHIEF--THOUGH I HAD TO CLOBBER *BLOSSOM* TO DO IT!

WHAT SAY WE HEAD *HOME?*

HOME, IN THIS INSTANCE, IS A RAGTAG COLLECTION OF TATTERED CANVAS TENTS AND PEELING PAINTED WAGONS--

POOR HULK! HE JUST SITS THERE LIKE SOME SORT OF STATUE!

--AND IT IS THERE WE REJOIN OUR CAST A SHORT WHILE LATER...

WHILE MERIAM HAS BEEN LOCKED AWAY IN THE RING-MASTER'S WAGON SINCE SHE AWOKE--

--AND LORD ONLY KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING TO HER IN THERE!

YOU MUST REALIZE, MY DEAR, THAT IN THE END, YOU WILL TELL ME WHAT I WISH TO KNOW!

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE--WHAT YOU ARE--AND THE ANCIENT SECRETS YOU POSSESS WILL MAKE ME A WEALTHY MAN!

FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, MY DEAR-- SPEAK TO ME!

NAY, EVIL SIR! DO THY WORST... IF YE MUST!

I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO THEE.

OH, YOU'LL TALK, YOU LITTLE SNIPPET--OR YOU'LL FEEL THE FEARSOME CARESS OF PRINCESS PYTHON'S PET!

IT'LL BE MY PLEASURE, SWEETY.

LISTEN TO THE SHOUTING IN THERE! WE'VE GOT TO GET FREE--GOT TO RESCUE MERIAM--!

JUST DON'T KILL YERSELF IN THE PROCESS, PAL!

IT--IT'S JUST NO USE, MAJOR! THIN AS I AM, THESE BARS ARE STILL TOO NARROW!

I...I'VE FAILED!

LIKE HECK YA DID, STILTS-- LOOK!

ALL YER SQUIRMIN' MAY'VE BENT THIS RUSTY OLD BAR JUST ENOUGH--!

AND WITHIN MOMENTS...

YOU DID IT, MAJOR!

YEAH, I WIGGLED THRU --BUT IT FEELS LIKE I SQUASHED EVERY BONE IN MY BODY DOIN' IT!

NOW I...HUH?

STUPID CAGE! I OUGHT 'A... I... I...

AW-- FORGET IT!

I GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TA WORRY ABOUT!

HULK? HULK! HEY, YA BIG GREEN PALOOKA-- LISTEN TA ME!

C'MON, BUSTER-- WAKE UP! MERIAM'S IN TROUBLE!

"DIDJA HEAR ME, BUSTER? MERIAM NEEDS US! YA GOTTA SNAP OUTTA THAT TRANCE!"

MERIAM?

"YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, GREENIE--MERIAM! SHE'S LOCKED IN THE RINGMASTER'S WAGON--" AN' WE GOTTA HELP HER!

MERIAM?!

"THAT'S IT, BIG FELLA--FIGHT IT! BREAK THE RINGMASTER'S BLASTED SPELL! FIGHT IT, HULK--FIGHT!"

MERIAM!!!

MERIAM IS IN TROUBLE? MERIAM NEEDS HULK'S HELP?

THEN WHY IS HULK IN PUNY CHAINS??

SHRAKKT!

IF MERIAM NEEDS HULK--

--HULK MUST GO TO HER!!

SKRANGG!

HOLY CROW.!!

COME, FRIENDS-- SHOW HULK WHERE TO FIND MERIAM! SHOW HULK THE ONES WHO WOULD HURT HULK'S FRIENDS--

KRUMP!

--AND HULK WILL SMASH!!

THEY'RE IN THAT WAGON, HULK!

BUT THEY WILL NOT STAY IN PUNY WAGON FOR LONG!

COME OUT, PUNY HUMANS! COME OUT AND FACE HULK!

OR HULK WILL COME IN AND GET YOU!!

SKRHAAK!

LORD--HE'S TORN THIS ENTIRE WAGON IN HALF!!

AND THAT CURSED SEA WITCH STILL HASN'T TOLD ME WHAT I NEED TO KNOW!

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO STALL HIM--BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

HEY RUBE!!

AND IN RESPONSE TO THAT TIME-HONORED CARNIVAL CRY FOR HELP...

HANG LOOSE, BOSS--WE'RE COMING!

AND THE GREAT GAMBONNOS ARE RIGHT AT THE FOREFRONT!

LET'S PUT 'EM *DOWN*, BOYS!

AIN'T *NOBODY* WHO CAN STAND UP TO *ALL* OF US!!

AND AS THE HULK GOES DOWN BEFORE THE SUDDEN ASSAULT...

IF YOU'RE *WISE*, STILTS, YOU'LL LET ME *PASS* --OR I PROMISE MY *PET* WILL MAKE A *MEAL* OF YOU!

AFTER WHAT YOU'VE ALL *DONE* TO US, PRINCESS?

NOT A *CHANCE!*

THEN YOU BRING THIS ON *YOURSELF*, FOOL!

PRECIOUS-- *ATTACK!!*

YOUR PET IS *FAST*, PRINCESS--I'LL GRANT YOU *THAT* MUCH!

HISSSS

BUT THEY DIDN'T *BILL* ME AS "*THE MAN WITH THE RUBBER BODY*" FOR *NOTHING!*

SSSSSS

LIKE YOUR PET, I'M LONG AND LEAN AND *SUPPLE*-- BUT *UNLIKE* YOUR SLITHERING SIDEKICK, I'VE GOT A MIND OF MY *OWN*...

SSSSSS

...AND I KNOW HOW TO *USE* IT!

NEED I ADD THAT I *WON* MY BOY SCOUT MERIT BADGE FOR *KNOT-TYING?*

SSSS?

MY *PRECIOUS*-- WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE* TO HIM?

LOOK, BLOSSOM, I DON'T LIKE HITTING A *WOMAN*--

--BUT YOU DON'T GET OUTTA MY *WAY*, AND I'M COMING RIGHT *THRU* YOU!

SORRY, CANNONBALL-- BUT YOU DON'T REALLY *SCARE* ME!

OKAY, FAT LADY--DON'T SAY I DIDN'T *WARN* YOU!

NOW I'M JUST GONNA *SPREAD* YOU ALL OVER THE *LANDSCAPE!*

I THINK YOU'VE GOT AN OVER-INFLATED *OPINION* OF YOURSELF, FELLA!

WHUMP!

'CAUSE, WITHOUT THE ADDED *VELOCITY* YOU GET FROM BEING *SHOT* OUT OF THAT OVER-SIZED *POPGUN*--

--I'M JUST A WHOLE LOT MORE *WOMAN* THAN YOU'RE ABLE TO *HANDLE!*

UUNNFF!!

NOW WHY DON'T YOU JUST MAKE YOURSELF *COMFORT-ABLE* WHILE I TELL YOU THE STORY OF MY *LIFE!*

WHOOM!

IT'S ALL GOING *SOUR!* I'VE GOT TO *ESCAPE* WHILE...

HUHNN!?

YOU'RE NOT GOING *ANYWHERE*, SNAKE-CHARMER!

WHILE I WAS *WITH* THIS CIRCUS, THEY TREATED ME LIKE AN *ANIMAL*--

--BUT YOU MOVE ONE *MUSCLE*, AND YOU'LL SEE JUST HOW *FERO-CIOUS* I CAN TRULY *BE!*

I HAVE NO *QUARREL* WITH YOU, MIDGET! STEP ASIDE-- OR *ELSE!*

HAH! IF YER LOOKIN' FER A *FIGHT*, CLOWN-- YOU CAME TO THE RIGHT *PLACE!*

THERE'LL BE NO *FIGHT*, FOOL, AS LONG AS MY *CANE-BLASTER* CAN...

WHA--? I-I *MISSED!*

WHAT'S THE *MATTER*, CLOWN? TOO SMALL A *TARGET* FOR YA?

ZAK!

WELL, WHAT I LACK IN *SIZE*, I MORE THAN MAKE UP FOR IN *OTHER* WAYS!

KNOW WHAT I *MEAN?*

AARRGGHH!!

HOLD THE HULK DOWN, FOOLS!
WE--WE CAN'T, GAMBONNO!
HEY RUBE! WE'RE GOING TO NEED HELP OVER HERE!
BAH! THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH LITTLE MEN IN ALL THE WORLD TO HELP YOU NOW!
YOU'VE HURT HULK'S FRIENDS-- AND HULK WILL CRUSH YOU ALL!!
ENOUGH! TO CONTINUE THIS BATTLE WOULD BE MADNESS!
THEN LET US FLEE, BROTHER-- WHILE WE STILL CAN!
THAT'S RIGHT, LITTLE MEN--RUN FROM HULK! RUN FAST! RUN FAR!
BUT YOU WILL NEVER FIND A PLACE WHERE HULK CANNOT FIND YOU!
DOLT, YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING!
THE GIRL MERIAM IS THE LAST OF HER KIND--A SEA NYMPH --POSSESSED OF ALL THE OCEAN'S SECRETS!
LONG-LOST FORTUNES WOULD HAVE BEEN MINE-- BUT PERHAPS THEY YET CAN BE!
LOOK INTO MY EYES, HULK-- AND OBEY ME!
BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THE GREEN GOLIATH IS ONLY CAPABLE OF SUSTAINING ONE THOUGHT AT A TIME...
YOU ARE IN MY POWER, HULK! YOU WILL OBEY ME! YOU WILL FEAR ME!!
...AND RIGHT NOW, HIS MUDDLED MIND IS FILLED WITH BOUNDLESS FURY!
NO! YOU MUST OBEY ME, HULK! YOU MUST FEAR ME... FEAR ME... FEAR...

AT LAST, WHIMPERING SOFTLY, THE RINGMASTER SINKS TO THE SAWDUST IN A NEAR-MINDLESS STUPOR--

--FOR HE HAS PEERED NOW INTO THE EYES OF ANGER, AND SEEN ONLY HIS OWN UNREASONING FEAR MIRRORED THERE!

BAH! LITTLE MAN CRIES LIKE SOME WHIPPED DOG!

LITTLE MAN IS NOT EVEN WORTH SMASHING!

HULK WILL FIND MERIAM NOW, AND...

THERE IS NO NEED TO SEEK ME, HULK. I AM...

OOOHHHH

MERIAM?!?

WITH UNCHARACTERISTIC GENTLENESS, THE WORRIED HULK STRUGGLES TO MAKE THE STRICKEN MERIAM COMFORTABLE, THEN...

YOU REST NOW, MERIAM-- AND SOON YOU WILL BE WELL AGAIN!

NAY, DEAR HULK... I FEAR I SHALL NEVER FEEL WELL AGAIN!

I CAME AMONG THY KIND BECAUSE I WAS LONELY, MY FRIEND... BECAUSE THE BRINY DEPTHS HELD NO MORE MYSTERY FOR ME...

...BUT NOW I FIND 'TWAS THE SEA ALONE WHICH SUSTAINED ME... AND GAVE ME LIFE.

HULK DOES NOT UNDERSTAND. HOW CAN HULK HELP MERIAM?

THERE IS BUT ONE THING LEFT TO DO, DEAR HULK...

PLEASE... TAKE ME... HOME.

THEN... THAT IS WHAT HULK WILL DO.

HULK? HEY--HULK! WHERE YA TAKIN' MERIAM, YA BIG GREEN GORILLA?

HEY, C'MON, HULK-- ANSWER ME! I WANNA COME WITH YA!

NO, MAJOR, DO US ALL A FAVOR-- AND LEAVE THEM IN PEACE.

EVEN IF THEY WANTED US WITH THEM, IT'S BEST THEY DO WHAT THEY MUST DO NOW... ALONE!

THE SHORE HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE LAST THE HULK WAS HERE; THE TIDE STILL BEATS RELENTLESSLY AGAINST THE SAND...

...EVEN AS THE MAN-BRUTE'S HEART NOW POUNDS WITHIN HIS CHEST!

PLEASE, MERIAM--DO NOT LEAVE HULK! HULK... NEEDS YOU.

FORGIVE ME, MY FRIEND...BUT I MUST.

IF I REMAIN WITH THEE...I WILL PERISH!

THEN...LET HULK COME WITH YOU, MERIAM.

WITH ALL MY HEART, DEAR HULK...I WISH I COULD.

BUT YE WOULD HAVE NO MORE PLACE IN MY WORLD THAN I HAVE IN THINE!

I CAME HERE BECAUSE I WAS LONELY, GOOD SIR... BUT SO LONG AS I HAVE MY MEMORIES OF THEE...

...I WILL NEVER BE LONELY AGAIN.

I PRAY THEE, HULK...THINK KINDLY OF ME...

...FOR I SHALL ALWAYS THINK OF THEE...

AND, WITH THAT, THE MAN-BRUTE AND THE MERMAID ARE SWALLOWED BY THE ALL-CONSUMING SURF, THE VERY SUDDENESS OF THE ACTION TEARING MERIAM FROM THE GREEN GOLIATH'S GRASP...

...AND WHEN, AT LAST, THE TIDE RECEDES ONCE MORE--THE HULK IS AGAIN ALONE.

FOR A TIME, HE STANDS AND STARES OUT TO SEA...

...THEN HE TURNS AND WALKS OFF DOWN THE BEACH, LEAVING ONLY HIS DAMP FOOTPRINTS BEHIND HIM...

...AND SOON, EVEN THOSE ARE GONE.

ONLY THE SEA, AFTER ALL, IS ETERNAL.

NEXT ISSUE: WHILE THE HULK STRUGGLES TO RETURN HOME, DOC SAMSON FACES THE MOST RELENTLESS SUPER-FOE OF ALL! BE HERE FOR...

THE RHINO DOESN'T STOP HERE ANYMORE!

INCREDIBLE HULK®

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THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

IF *THE HULK* COULDN'T BEAT *THE RHINO--*

--WHAT SORT OF CHANCE DO *I* STAND?!

BECAUSE YOU DEMANDED IT--

DOC SAMSON

IN SOLO SUPER-ACTION AT LAST!!

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered *Fury*—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

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HIS NAME, IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN INTRODUCED, IS DR. LEONARD SAMSON, UNTIL RECENTLY, A PSYCHIATRIST OF SOME RENOWN--

--BUT NOW A VERDANT-HAIRED AND DISBELIEVING SUPER-HERO!

THAT POOR LUCKLESS BRUTE HAS SURVIVED WORSE THAN A SIMPLE FALL FROM THE SHIELD HELI-CARRIER*.

--BUT STILL, HE'S NOT IMMORTAL!

* IN ISSUE #216--A FALL WE KNOW HE DID SURVIVE, RIGHT? --LEN.

I'M SORRY I EVER SAW THIS BLASTED PAPER! I HITCHED THAT RIDE OFF GAMMA BASE TO GET AWAY FROM MY PROBLEMS FOR A WHILE--

--NOT TO DISCOVER A WHOLE NEW SET OF THEM!

I'VE GOT ENOUGH TROUBLE, TRYING TO LEARN THE IDENTITY OF MY AMNESIAC PATIENT,* WITHOUT ADDING TO...

RRRUUMMBBLEE

EH?

* WHO STUMBLED IN FROM THE DESERT IN HULK #208 --LEN AGAIN.

INSTANTLY, THE STARTLED DOC SAMSON WHIRLS AT THE SOUND, TO DISCOVER...

THE RAILROAD TRESTLE OVER WELLMAN GORGE--IT'S COLLAPSING--!!

--AS IF DAMAGED BY AN EARTH TREMOR--OR STRUCK BY SOME IMPOSSIBLY HEAVY OBJECT!

"I'D BETTER WARN THE PROPER AUTHORITIES BEFORE..."

WHOOHOOWHOO

"NO--IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE! THERE'S AN EXPRESS TRAIN COMING--AND NOT A CHANCE OF THAT TRESTLE BEING ABLE TO SUPPORT IT!"

IF ANYTHING IS GOING TO SAVE THAT TRAIN, IT'LL HAVE TO BE ME!

AND, WITHOUT HESITATION, SAMSON QUITE LITERALLY LEAPS INTO ACTION...

...THE GAMMA-IRRADIATED **MUSCLES** OF HIS MIGHTY LEGS PROPELLING HIM **UP** TO THE UNSTEADY STRUCTURE, AS IF HE WORE **SEVEN-LEAGUE BOOTS!**

AND EVEN AS HE **LANDS**, SAMSON FEELS THE TRESTLE **SWAY** BENEATH HIS WEIGHT ...EVER SO **SLIGHTLY.**

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO **BEGIN** RE-PAIRING THIS MESS!

THE TRESTLE LOOKS LIKE A HERD OF **RAMPAGING ELEPHANTS** DID A JOB ON IT!

STILL, I HAVE TO DO **SOMETHING!**

THERE ISN'T A **PRAYER** OF THE ENGINEER STOPPING THAT **TRAIN** IN TIME!

SWEET SANITY! THE DAMAGE IS EVEN WORSE **BENEATH** THE TRESTLE!

I'D THOUGHT PERHAPS I COULD **STRAIGHTEN** THESE GIRDERS, BUT **NOW--!**

I DON'T KNOW WHAT **CAUSED** THIS--

--BUT I **DO** KNOW THERE'S ONLY ONE THING LEFT FOR ME TO **TRY!**

HAVE TO **BRACE** MYSELF AGAINST THIS CRUMBLING CONCRETE **FOUNDATION--**

--TRY TO **SUPPORT** THE TRESTLE WITH MY OWN **BODY** LONG ENOUGH FOR THE EXPRESS TO **PASS!**

COME ON... SAMSON! YOU'VE ALWAYS... WANTED TO PLAY... SUPER-HERO!

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE... TO EARN YOUR... FIRST GOLD STAR!

THE WORDS ARE SPAT OUT FROM BETWEEN CLENCHED TEETH, AS LEONARD SAMSON THROWS HIS RADIATION-TRANSFORMED BODY ENTIRELY INTO THE TASK AT HAND...

HIS RIPPLING MUSCLES TENSING AND POPPING, SAMSON DIGS HIS BOOTED FEET DEEP INTO THE CRACKING CONCRETE--AS SEVERAL THOUSAND TONS OF SPEEDING LOCOMOTIVE ROAR PAST OVER HIS HEAD...

...SENDING COUNTLESS FRAGMENTS OF RUINED TRESTLE RAINING DOWN ALL AROUND HIM!

RRRRRMMMMM

HANG ON, SAMSON--JUST A FEW SECONDS LONGER!

BLAST IT, MAN--HANG ON!!

AND WHEN, AT LAST, THE TRAIN HAS PASSED...

UNNHH--WOULDN'T WANT TO GO THRU THAT EVERY DAY!

EVERY MUSCLE IN MY BODY ACHES! I'D BETTER... EH?

THE TRESTLE--ITS SWAYING HAS GROWN EVEN WORSE!

I'VE GOT TO GET OFF OF THIS DEATH-TRAP--WHILE I STILL CAN!

BUT EVEN AS THE VERDANT-TRESSED FIGURE HURLS HIMSELF ACROSS THE VICIOUSLY-TREMBLING TRACKS--

--THE SOUND OF THUNDER GROWS BEHIND HIM, AND HE TURNS...

...TO WITNESS THE LAST VIOLENT DEATH-THROES OF THE WELLMAN CANYON BRIDGE!

RRRUMMB-BA-BOOM!

THE TUMULTUOUS CACOPHONY OF TWISTING STEEL AND CRUMBLING CONCRETE ECHOES ACROSS THE YAWNING GORGE FOR MANY MINUTES...

AND WHEN THE ECHOES FINALLY FADE...

SWEET LORD, MISTER-- IF YOU HADN'T BEEN THERE...

BUT I WAS THERE, FRIEND--AND, IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO TAG ALONG FOR A WHILE!

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS "ACCIDENT" THAT DOESN'T QUITE RING TRUE!

INDEED!

FOR, EVEN AS THE EXPRESS CHURNS AWAY INTO THE DISTANCE, A LUMBERING BRUTE STEPS OUT FROM BEHIND A BOULDER...

...AND VENTS HIS MOST TERRIBLE RAGE!

EVEN THOUGH I BENT THEM GIRDERS GOOD, THE BLASTED TRAIN STILL GOT AWAY FROM ME--

--BUT NEXT TIME, THE RHINO AIN'T GONNA FAIL!!

OUT ACROSS THE SPRAWLING NEW MEXICAN **COUNTRYSIDE,** THE RACING EXPRESS TRAIN WENDS IT LONELY **WAY**--

--THE MOURNFUL **WAILING** OF ITS POWERFUL WHISTLE DRIFTING BACK ALONG THE **TRACKS**...

...CARRYING THE MELANCHOLY **THOUGHTS** OF LEONARD SAMSON BACK AS WELL...

YOU'RE A REAL **SUC-CESS**-- AREN'T YOU, SAMSON?

YOU CAN SAVE A WHOLE **TRAIN-LOAD** OF PEOPLE JUST BY **FLEXING** YOUR OVER-SIZED **MUSCLES**--

--BUT WHEN IT COMES TO HELPING THE FEW PEOPLE YOU **CARE** FOR, YOU CAN'T ACCOM-PLISH A **THING!**

AFTER ALL, IF IT WASN'T FOR MY **EGO,** BRUCE BANNER WOULD HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN **RID** OF THE **HULK!***

AND I HAVE TO SHARE AT LEAST **PART** OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE **BREAK-UP** OF BETTY AND GLENN TALBOT'S **MARRIAGE!****

*IN **HULK** #141 AND **HULK** #209, RESPECTIVELY --THE LIVELY ONE.

MAYBE I SHOULD JUST **CHUCK** THE WHOLE **PSYCHIATRY** BIT! MY DEGREE CERTAINLY DOESN'T SEEM TO BE DOING **ANY-BODY** A WHOLE LOT OF **GOOD** RIGHT... **EH?**

THAT **SOUND** IN THE DISTANCE--LIKE THE RUMBLING OF AN **EARTHQUAKE** OR--!

THEN HE **SEES** IT--THE PONDEROUS **FIGURE** CHARG-ING ALONG A NEARBY **RIDGE**...

...ACTUALLY **PACING** THE SPEEDING **TRAIN**...

...AND THEN, MORE AMAZINGLY, **OVER-TAKING** IT!

I TRIED TO DO THIS THE **EASY** WAY FIRST, BY DUMPIN' THE WHOLE TRAIN INTA THAT **GORGE**--

--BUT THE GUY I'M **WORKIN'** FOR DON'T TAKE KINDLY TA **FAILURE**--

--SO ONE WAY OR THE OTHER...

...THIS HALF-BAKED EXPRESS IS TAKIN' A FALL!

SKA-TOOM

FOR ONE INTERMINABLE INSTANT, THE HUGE DIESEL ENGINE SEEMS SUSPENDED IN AIR, BALANCED PRECARIOUSLY UPON A SINGLE RAILING--

KA-THOOM!

--THEN, LIKE SOME GREAT DRUNKEN JUGGERNAUT, IT VEERS SAVAGELY TO ONE SIDE, SMASHING VIOLENTLY INTO THE HILLOCK THAT RISES BEFORE IT!

AND, AMID THE ENSUING PANDEMONIUM...

I PROMISED TO PROTECT THIS TRAIN--AND ONCE AGAIN, I FAILED!

BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BRUTE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS DISASTER?

AND ALMOST AS IF IN ANSWER...

DID IT! I GOT THAT STUPID PACKAGE THE BOSS SENT ME AFTER!

SKRASH!

NOW ALL I GOTTA DO IS GET OUTTA HERE!

BUT THAT'S NOT GOING TO BE AS EASY AS YOU MIGHT THINK, MISTER!

HUH?

HEY, OUTTA MY WAY, YA GREEN-HAIRED JERK! NOBODY STANDS AGAINST --THE RHINO!!

DON'T CALL ME "NOBODY", RHINO-- THE NAME'S DOC SAMSON!

BY THE TIME WE'RE DONE HERE, DUMMY--

AND BY THE TIME WE'RE DONE HERE, IT'S A NAME YOU'LL REMEMBER!

WHUUNNFF!!

CHOOM!

--IT'S A NAME THEY'LL CARVE ON YER TOMB-STONE!!

LORD, HE'S AS POWERFUL AS THE HULK--

--BUT THE MAN-BRUTE WAS NEVER SO BESTIAL, SO FIERCELY HOMICIDAL!

SKRUMMP!

CAN'T LET A MENACE LIKE THE RHINO ESCAPE!

GOT TO GET UP... GO AFTER HIM...

HAHAHAHA

BUT IF I PLAY THE AVENGING SUPER-HERO--

--THEN I NEGLECT MY OATH AS A PHYSICIAN, HELPING THOSE INJURED IN THE WRECK!

HAVE TO MAKE MY MIND UP QUICKLY! WHICH WILL IT BE, SAMSON--WHICH??

AH, WHO AM I KIDDING?

WHEN IT COMES RIGHT *DOWN* TO IT, IT ISN'T MUCH OF A *CHOICE!*

THESE POOR *PEOPLE* COME *FIRST!*

LIKE A ONE-MAN *RESCUE SQUAD*, THE EMERALD-TRESSED *STRONGMAN* SEEMS TO BE *EVERYWHERE*...

...TENDING *CASUALTIES*... UPRIGHTING *TRAIN-CARS*... CALMING *FEARS*...

THERE IS NO LONGER ANY *DOUBT* IN HIS MIND NOW! THIS IS WHAT HE WAS *MEANT* TO DO, WHAT HE HAS SPENT HIS WHOLE LIFE *TRAINING* FOR.

SANTA FE

IT IS DURING MOMENTS LIKE *THESE*--WHEN THE INNER CONFLICTS ARE *PUT ASIDE* FOR THE NONCE, WHEN THE SUPER-HEROICS ARE *FORGOTTEN*--THAT THE *TRUE* MAN AT LAST *EMERGES!*

THIS IS *DOCTOR* LEONARD SAMSON--HEALER OF THE *SICK*, CONFIDANT OF THE *TROUBLED*--AND WHO IS TO SAY THAT IN *THIS* ROLE HE IS NOT THE MOST *HEROIC* OF ALL?

THEN, WHEN THE LAST OF THE IN-JURED HAVE FINALLY BEEN *CARED FOR*...

NOW I CAN TRACK DOWN THE *RHINO!*

AND, ALL THINGS *CONSIDERED*, I DON'T THINK IT'LL BE *DIFFICULT!*

BUT, LEST YOU THINK WE'VE FORGOTTEN THE JADE-SKINNED **STAR** OF THIS BOOK **ENTIRELY**, LET'S TURN FOR A MOMENT TO A DISTANT **SHORE**--

--AND SEE IF ANYTHING IS **BITING!**

CURSE IT! MY LINE IS **SNAGGED** ON SOME-THING!

MAYBE YOU HAVE LANDED ANOTHER **OLD TIRE**, MY FRIEND!

CLOSE, PAL--BUT DEFINITELY **NO CIGAR!**

BAH! WHY DO PUNY HUMANS ATTACK HULK **NOW?**

HULK WAS IN **BUSHES**, TRYING TO **SLEEP**-- BUT LITTLE MEN TRIED TO CATCH HULK IN **ROPES** AND **HOOKS**...

...AND, LITTLE MEN, THAT MAKES HULK **MAD!!**

HOLY MOTHER OF MERCY!

QUICKLY, MY FRIEND, WHILE WE STILL **CAN**--

--LET US **FLEE!!**

GO **ON**, PUNY HUMANS--**RUN** FROM HULK!

HULK WANTS TO BE LEFT **ALONE!**

HULK IS TIRED OF ALWAYS BEING **ANNOYED** BY PUNY HUMANS, AND HULK IS...

...HUNGRY.

AND ON THAT APPETIZING NOTE, WE TAKE OUR LEAVE OF THE GALLOPING GREEN GOURMET, AND TURN OUR ATTENTION ONCE MORE TO THE GREAT AMERICAN SOUTHWEST, SOME TIME LATER...

SPECIFICALLY, TO THE RAMSHACKLE CITY OF MOSSBACK FLATS -- IN ITS DAYS, A BUSTLING MINING TOWN OF SOME 200 HEARTY SOULS.

SALOON

HAHAHAHAHA

STORE

MINES

TONIGHT, HOWEVER, MOSSBACK FLATS BOASTS A TOTAL POPULATION OF ONE...

...AND HE'S JUST PASSING THRU!

HAHA

NOW THIS IS WHAT I CALL A VICTORY CELEBRA-TION!

THE WHOLE BLAMED WORLD MUST'A FIGGERED THE RHINO WAS WASHED UP AFTER I GOT BEATEN BY THE RED RAJAH*--

--BUT THE BOSS KNEW BETTER!

* IN DEFENDERS #43 -- LEN.

YEAH, THE BOSS REMEMBERED ME -- AN' PAVED MY WAY OUTTA THE SLAMMER! HE GAVE ME A PURPOSE AGAIN--

--AN' NOW THAT I'VE GRABBED THAT PACKAGE HE WANTED, THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' THAT CAN STOP US!

THIS TIME, THERE AIN'T EVEN NO STUPID HULK TA GET IN OUR WAY!

'CORDIN' TA THE PAPERS, OL' JADE-JAWS FINALLY WENT AN' TOOK HISSELF THE LONG FALL...

...LIKE THIS!

FOR A STARTLINGLY LONG TIME, THE BRUTISH RHINO HESITATES AT THE EDGE OF THE ANCIENT WELL, LISTENING --

--UNTIL, AT LAST, HIS PATIENCE IS REWARDED BY A FAINT RESOUNDING ECHO FROM FAR, FAR BELOW...

BYE-BYE, LI'L BOTTLE... AN' BYE-BYE, HULK!

PLASH!

IF I WERE *YOU*, RHINO --I'D *HOLD ON* A WHILE BEFORE I THREW THE *WAKE!*

WHO--?!?

DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE *FORGOTTEN* THE NAME *ALREADY*, FELLA!

NOT EVEN *YOU* COULD BE *THAT* STUPID!

SAMSON?!? BUT *HOW?*

I FIGGERED I *TOTALLED* YOU! WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU *MADE* OF?

IF YOU DON'T *SURRENDER*, RHINO-- YOU'RE GOING TO FIND OUT THE *HARD* WAY!

IF I CAN TAKE ON THE *HULK*, I'M *MORE* THAN A MATCH FOR *YOU!*

THAT WUZ THE WRONG THING TA *SAY*, BOY SCOUT!

THE *RHINO* DON'T HAFTA TAKE THAT KIND'A *LIP* FROM *NOBODY!*

YA *HEAR* ME, BRIGHT-BOY-- **NOBODY!!**

I *HEAR* YOU, RHINO--

--BUT THAT *DOESN'T* MEAN I ACTUALLY *BELIEVE* YOU!

'CUZ WHEN IT COMES RIGHT *DOWN* TO IT--

PLAYIN' *LEAP-FROG* AIN'T GONNA *HELP* YA, GLAMOUR-BOY!

BWHAM!

--THIS AIN'T NO **GAME!!**

I HATE TO COIN A *CLICHE*-- BUT I NEVER EXPECTED ANYONE THAT *BIG* TO MOVE THAT *FAST*!

HE TURNED ON THE PROVERBIAL *DIME*--AND THE *FORCE* OF HIS CHARGE KNOCKED ME THE LENGTH OF THE *STREET*!

HAVE TO *DISTRACT* HIM SOMEHOW--GIVE MYSELF A CHANCE TO CATCH MY *BREATH*--!

THIS OLD *ORE CAR*--IT SHOULD SUIT MY PURPOSES *PERFECTLY*--!

WHONK!

BUT EVEN AS THE RHINO TURNS TOWARDS THE APPROACHING CLATTER...

YOU GOTTA BE *KIDDIN'*, RIGHT?

YOU DON'T REALLY EXPECT TA *STOP* ME WIT' THAT PIECE'A JUNK, DO YA?

KLAKETYKLAK

I TOOK OUT A WHOLE *TRAIN* TODAY, REMEMBER? HANDLIN' THIS OLD *ORE CAR* WON'T EVEN WORK ME UP A *SWEAT*!

AN' YOU CALLED *ME* STUPID!

KA-SPLANG!

NOT *STUPID*, RHINO-- JUST *SIMPLE*!

OTHERWISE, YOU'D NEVER HAVE ALLOWED YOURSELF TO BE *SET UP*--

--FOR *THIS*!!

AARRGGHH!!

SKRA-WHOOM!

NICE *TRY*, GLAMOUR-BOY--BUT IT TAKES A LOT MORE 'N *THAT* TA PUT DOWN THE *RHINO*!

BROK!

BLAST! I'M STILL *UNDER-ESTIMATING* HIS SPEED--HIS *POWER*!

I'VE GOT TO *THINK* BEFORE I ACT--ATTACK THIS PROBLEM THE WAY I WOULD IF I WERE FIGHTING THE *HULK*!

THE *HULK*?! OF COURSE--THAT'S *IT*!

WHUMP!

AND AS THE IMPACT OF DOC SAMSON'S BODY STARTS THE OLD BARBER CHAIR SPINNING...

NOW YOU JUST *SIT* THERE, STRONG-ARM--WHILE I HUNT UP A *RAZOR*!

I THINK YOU COULD USE A *TRIM*!

NO THANKS, HORN-HEAD!

WOK!

ALL I *REALLY* NEEDED WAS A LITTLE *MOMENTUM*!

UUNNHH!!

MOMENTUM ENOUGH TO CARRY US *BOTH* OUT WHERE WE'LL HAVE A LITTLE *ELBOW ROOM*!

SKRUNCH!

LAUGH WHILE YA *CAN*, SAMSON--'CUZ YOU AIN'T WON THIS FRACAS *YET*!

OH, I'M NOT ALL THAT *WORRIED* ABOUT THE OUTCOME, RHINO!

AFTER ALL, EVEN THE *HULK* WOULD HAVE MORE *BRAINS* THAN TO FALL FOR *TWO* SUCKER PUNCHES!

HUHN--?!?

NO, YER *WRONG--* *WRONG!!*

I DON'T WANNA *HEAR* ABOUT THE HULK NO MORE, YA UNDERSTAND ME? I DON'T WANNA HEAR HIS LOUSY *NAME!*

THE HULK IS *DEAD--* AN' NOW THE RHINO IS *TOP DOG!*

MY HUNCH WAS *RIGHT!* THE RHINO *IS* COMPLETELY *PSYCHOTIC* ABOUT THE HULK!

NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS *GOAD* HIM UNTIL HE GROWS *CARELESS--* AND I'LL *HAVE* HIM!

WHUNNFF!!

ASSUMING, OF COURSE, I *LIVE* THAT LONG!

THE SHEER *POWER* OF THE RHINO'S CHARGE SENDS DOC SAMSON *FLYING--*

*--BACK INTO AND **THRU** THE CRUMBLING OLD STONE **WELL!***

HAVE TO GO *LIMP--* PLAY *POSSOM--* OR THE RHINO WILL FINISH ME *NOW!*

SKRAMM!

SO YA THOUGHT THE HULK WUZ *TOUGH*, HUH? WELL, GLAMOUR-BOY, YOU DON'T KNOW THE *MEANIN'* OF THE WORD!

BUT BEFORE I'M *DONE* WITH YA--

--YER GONNA *LEARN* IT!!

HE HOOKED MY *COSTUME* ON THAT CRAZY *HORN* OF HIS!

HAVE TO *ROLL* WITH THE TOSS-- HIT THIS BUILD-ING *CLEANLY* OR--!

SKRAKOOM!

HAW! THE WHOLE BLAMED PLACE *COLLAPSED* ON 'IM! HE'S *BURIED* UNDER TONS OF *RUBBLE!*

YA SHOULD'A *LISTENED* TA ME, SAMSON! I *WARNED* YA I WUZ THE *BEST!*

AND PERHAPS, IF YOU WERE THE *HULK*, I MIGHT EVEN HAVE *BELIEVED* IT, RHINO--

--BUT UNFORTUNATELY, YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A SECOND-RATE *TIN-HORN!*

BLAST YOU, SAMSON--*SHUT UP!* I TOLD YA I DIDN'T WANNA HEAR THAT GREEN GORILLA'S *NAME* NO MORE!

NOW I'M GONNA SHUT YA UP *PERMANENT!*

HIS EYES RIMMED WITH RED, THE GRAY-GARBED MAN-BEAST CHARGES--

--DIRECTLY INTO THE HARD RIGHT CROSS OF A FURIOUS DOC SAMSON!

UUNNHH!!

HHOK!

DOC'S SECOND BLOW STAGGERS THE RHINO VISIBLY--

CHUD!

--BUT STILL THE BEHE-MOTH LUMBERS ON...

POW!

HE'S IN A FRENZY-- ATTACKING BY SHEER INSTINCT ALONE-- LIKE AN ANIMAL!

HAVE TO KEEP POUNDING AWAY AT HIM--TRY TO WEAR HIM DOWN--!

BOK!

IT'S MY ONLY HOPE--!

I'VE GOT TO...NO!

RHINO-- LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU--!!

NO! NOBODY TELLS ME WHAT TO DO! I'M THE RHINO, D'YA HEAR ME?

THE RHI-I-N-N-N-O-O-O

FOR A VERY LONG TIME, LEONARD SAMSON STANDS AT THE EDGE OF THE RUINED WELL--

--UNTIL A LAST, HE HEARS A FAINT RESOUNDING ECHO FROM FAR, FAR BELOW ... AN ECHO OF UTTER FINALITY!

IT SEEMS I'VE WON! I'VE FACED A DANGEROUS, HOMICIDAL MANIAC-- AND USED MY BRAIN, AS WELL AS MY BRAWN, TO DEFEAT HIM!

YEAH, I'VE WON... BUT SOMEHOW, I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE CHEERING!

KSQ

NEXT ISSUE

THE HULK RETURNS, TO DISCOVER...

NO MAN IS AN ISLAND!

BE HERE!

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ERNIE CHAN 1977

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WHY MUST HULK ALWAYS LOSE *GIRL?*

WHY??

KROOM!

FIRST HULK LOST *JARELLA* *--AND NOW HULK LOSES *MERIAM!* **

WHY MUST HULK AL-WAYS *LOSE* THE ONES HULK *CARES* FOR?

KWHAMM!

WHY MUST HULK ALWAYS BE *ALONE?*

WHY? WHY??

*HULK #205 AND #216, RESPECTIVELY. --LEN.

BAH! WHY DOES HULK EVEN BOTHER *ASKING?*

MAYBE HULK IS *BETTER OFF* ALONE!

HULK IS *TIRED* OF ASKING STUPID *QUESTIONS*... TIRED OF SMASHING STUPID *ROCKS*...

HULK IS TIRED OF... *EVERYTHING!*

*THUS, HIS FRUSTRATED RAGE FINALLY *SPENT*, THE GREEN GOLIATH SETTLES DOWN AGAINST THE COLD UNFEEL-ING *ROCK*--

--AND FALLS *ASLEEP*--

--AND IT IS A SLEEP SO *SOUND*, SO *ALL-CONSUMING*, THAT HE DOES NOT EVEN *BEGIN* TO AWAKEN--

...NOR DOES THE EMERALD MAN-BRUTE *STIR* WHEN THE VERY GROUND BENEATH HIM ABRUPT-LY BEGINS TO *SHIFT*--

--WHEN THE WEAKENED *CLIFFSIDE* STARTS TO *CRUMBLE* EVER SO SLOW-LY BENEATH HIS HALF-TON *BULK!*

--SENDING HIM *SLIDING* DOWN THE HILL!

DOWN THE CRAGGY HILL-SIDE HE **TUMBLES**, HEAD OVER HEELS--YET STILL HIS **SLUMBER** GOES ON, **UNINTER-RUPTED**...

BUT IS THAT TRULY ANY **WONDER**?

THE **HULK**, AFTER ALL, HAS BEEN THROUGH **MUCH** THESE PAST FEW DAYS--

--A BATTLE WITH THE **BI-BEAST**, A PRO-LONGED **DUNKING** IN THE ICY ATLANTIC, AND **ENTRANCEMENT** AT THE HANDS OF THE **RINGMASTER***--

*HULK #215-216.--LEN.

--SO, GIVEN THE FIRST REAL CHANCE TO **REST** IN DAYS, WHO CAN **BLAME** THE MAN-BRUTE FOR SLUM-BERING ON THROUGH THIS **LATEST** INDIGNITY--

--UNTIL IT IS THE FRAIL FORM OF **ROBERT BRUCE BANNER** THAT STRIKES THE SOGGY SANDS, WITH CONSCIOUSNESS-ROBBING **IMPACT!**

UUNNHH!!

THUD!

FOR SEVERAL LONG MINUTES, THE GOOD DR. BANNER ENJOYS THE SLEEP OF THE **TOTALLY-EXHAUSTED**...

...BUT 'TIS SAID THERE IS NO **REST** FOR THE **WEARY**--

--AND THUS, AT LAST. . ,

WHA...? JIM...APRIL... I...

OH.

WH-WHERE HAS THE HULK BROUGHT ME **NOW**?

THE LAST THING I **REMEMBER** WITH ANY CLARITY IS BEING PULLED INTO THE **SKY** BY SOME SORT OF **POWER BEAM**, * AND THEN...

...NOTHING!

*ISSUE #215.--LEN AGAIN.

WELL, AT LEAST IT APPEARS I'M STILL SOMEWHERE ON **EARTH!** I SHOULD BE THANKFUL I DIDN'T WAKE UP ON **VENUS** OR MAYBE **MARS!**

I **SHOULD** BE THANKFUL... BUT I'M **NOT!**

AH-**CHOO!!**

AND EVEN AS THE BEDRAGGLED BRUCE BANNER STAGGERS OFF IN SEARCH OF **SHEL-TER**, WHY DON'T WE LOOK **WEST-WARD** ACROSS THE WIDE **ATLANTIC**...

. . .TO THE EVER-HOVERING HELI-CARRIER HEADQUARTERS OF **SHIELD**--

--SPECIFICALLY, TO THE VESSEL'S COMMAND CENTER AND SHIELD'S IRASCIBLE DIRECTOR, **NICK FURY**...

GOTTA ADMIT I'M **IMPRESSED**, GENTS! YA REALLY PUT THIS OVER-SIZED **CHOPPER** BACK IN TIP-TOP SHAPE !

WISH I COULD'A BEEN HERE TA **HELP**, BUT I WUZ BUSY SALVAGIN' SHIELD'S PROTO-TYPE **MINI-CARRIER** OUTTA SAN FRANCISCO BAY ! *

INADVERTENTLY KNOCKED OUT OF THE SKY BY HERCULES IN **GODZILLA #3**. --LIVELY.

WHAT'S **HAPPENING** TO THE SPY BUSINESS LATELY **ANYWAY**, CHIEF ?

THESE DAYS, WE SPEND MORE TIME FIGHTING **MONSTERS** THAN WE DO TRACKING DOWN **HYDRA!**

SO WHO'S **COMPLAINING**.? TANGLING WITH THE **BI-BEAST** WAS THE MOST **FUN** I'VE HAD SINCE I FLEW WITH **SKYLAR** BACK IN THE **BIG ONE!**

AN' BESIDES, THE **REPAIRS** WERE A **BREEZE!**

ACTUALLY THE GAFFER IS BEING **OVERLY MODEST**, COLONEL! IF NOT FOR **HIM**, NONE OF US WOULD **BE** HERE RIGHT NOW!

IZZAT **SO**?

THE WAY **I** HEARD IT, GENERAL ROSS, YA WUZN'T EXACTLY GOLD-BRICKIN' **YERSELF**--OR YOU **EITHER**, QUARTERMAIN!

AN'FER WHAT IT'S **WORTH**, I'M SORRY ABOUT THE **HULK!** I S'POSE YA'LL HAVE A LOTTA **HOUSE-CLEANIN'** TA DO DOWN AT **GAMMA BASE** NOW!

PERHAPS, COLONEL FURY...

...BUT I WOULDN'T BE ALL THAT **CERTAIN** ABOUT THE HULK'S **DEATH**, IF I WERE YOU! I'VE **KNOWN** THAT MAN-BRUTE A VERY LONG **TIME**...

...AND SOMEHOW, I **CAN'T** BELIEVE WE'VE HEARD THE **LAST** OF HIM!

PROPHETIC WORDS **INDEED**, GENERAL...

...FOR, SEVERAL THOUSAND MILES **AWAY**, AND SEVERAL HOURS **LATER**...

I HOPE THAT HAUSFRAU WASN'T TOO **UPSET** WHEN SHE FOUND HER HUBBY'S CLOTHING **MISS-ING** FROM THE LINE!

RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOT TO FIND **SOME** WAY BACK TO THE **STATES**, AND I COULDN'T VERY WELL **DO** THAT, WEAR-ING ONLY TATTERED PURPLE...

BINGO!

DR. BANNER, I THINK IT'S TIME YOU TOOK YOUR-SELF AN **OCEAN VOYAGE!**

CAPTAIN'S LOG, **DMB** ROTTERDAM--FOURTH DAY OUT: "... WEATHER CONTINUES TO BE **GOOD**, THE SEA **CALM**. IF CONDITIONS PERSIST, THIS COULD BECOME THE **EASI-EST** CROSSING IN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF SAILING.

"THAT NEW **HAND** WE HIRED ON BEFORE LEAVING PORT SEEMS TO BE WORKING OUT **WELL**--A BIT ON THE **QUIET** SIDE, BUT HE SEEMS A **FRIENDLY** ENOUGH SORT..."

OKAY, SO IT'S **NOT** THE **QE II**...

...THE WORK'S NOT TOO **HARD**, THE FOOD IS **GOOD**...

...AND I THINK I'M ACTUALLY BEGIN-NING TO **ENJOY** MYSELF!

THERE'S SOMETHING RATHER **RESTFUL** ABOUT THE OCEAN--AND I CAN'T REMEMBER BEING THIS **RELAXED** AND **CALM** IN YEARS!

I FEEL LIKE I HAVEN'T A **WORRY** IN THE **WORLD!**

WELL, **THAT**, DOCTOR BANNER, IS A PROBLEM EASILY **REMEDIED!**

"FREIGHTER SIGHTED... **DEAD AHEAD!**"

HOW DOES YER SCOPE READ, MR. STARKEY?

GAMMA-METER SHOWS TWELVE OVER FIVE, CAP'N SIR! I'D SAY WE'VE FINALLY LOCATED OUR TARGET!

AYE, MR. STARKEY!

NOW HEAR THIS, YE LUBBERS! BOARDING PARTY -- MAKE READY!

ON MY COMMAND -- FIRE FOR'ARD TUBES!!

THE SEACRAFT COMMANDED BY THIS SINISTER BEARDED FIGURE IS A MOST BIZARRE VESSEL INDEED -- FAR MORE SUITED TO THE PAGES OF JULES VERNE THAN TO JANE'S BOOK OF SHIPS...

...BUT THE SLEEK SILVER CYLINDERS WHICH SUDDENLY ERUPT FROM ITS GROTESQUE PROW ARE ALL TOO FRIGHTENINGLY FAMILIAR TO SEAFARING MEN...

...TORPEDOES!!

LIKE STEEL-SKINNED SERPENTS, THEY SLITHER BENEATH THE WAVES --

--TO STRIKE THE GOOD SHIP ROTTERDAM WITH HULL-DEVASTATING IMPACT!

POOM!

POOM!

SWEET SOUL OF THE SEA--WE'VE BEEN *TORPEDOED!!*

GET THOSE PORT COMPARTMENTS *SEALED,* MEN!

AND ASSEMBLE A *FIRE CREW*-- ON THE *DOUBLE!!*

*AND EVEN AS SUDDEN **PANDEMONIUM** REIGNS ABOARD THE BESIEGED **ROTTERDAM**, THE SINISTER SEACRAFT SWIFTLY **SURFACES** ALONG THE FREIGHTER'S STARBOARD SIDE...*

A'RIGHT, YE SWABS --FOLLER *ME!*

WILL YA *LISTEN* TO HIM? WHO DOES THAT LOONEY THINK HE IS-- *CAPTAIN KIDD?*

JUST SHUT UP AN' *CLIMB,* WILL YA?

OUTTA THE *WAY,* CHUMP-- WE'RE COMIN' *THRU!*

GOOD LORD-- *NO!*

WE'RE BEING *BOARDED* BY... AARRGGHH!!

FAN OUT, YE LUBBERS-- AN' *SEARCH* THIS SCOW!

AN' DON'T TAKE NO *PRISONERS!!*

*AND IF FIRST MATE STARKEY'S COLD-BLOODED COMMAND CAN CAUSE EVEN HARDENED **SEAMEN** TO BREAK AND **RUN**--*

*--JUST **IMAGINE** THE EFFECT IT HAS ON THE TERRIFIED "**NEW HAND**"!*

HEAD *POUNDING*...PULSE *RACING*...NO...*NO*... HAVE TO STAY *CALM*...CAN'T LOSE *CONTROL*...

BUT THE *SHIP*.. IT'S *BURNING*... WE'RE GOING TO *SINK*... I'M GOING TO *DROWN*...

ALMOST **DESPITE** HIMSELF, THE EMOTIONALLY-EXHAUSTED ROBERT BRUCE BANNER SURRENDERS TO HIS **PANIC**, LOSING THE ALL-IMPORTANT **SELF-CONTROL** HE HAS STRUGGLED SO DESPERATELY TO **MAINTAIN**! HIS BLOOD PRESSURE **SOARS**--HIS PULSE RATE, RESPIRATION, AND A DOZEN OTHER **VITAL SIGNS** ARE ALL PUSHED TO INCREDIBLE **PEAKS**, REACTING WITH THE LATENT **GAMMA RADIATION** IN HIS BODY...

...AND **TRIGGERING** THE MOST AWESOME **TRANSFORMATION** OF ALL!!

BAH! AGAIN LITTLE MEN **THREATEN** HULK WITH PUNY **GUNS**!

LEAVE HULK **ALONE**, PUNY HUMANS--OR HULK WILL **SMASH**!!

CAP'N SIR--I THINK WE'VE GOT **TROUBLE**!

THEN **FORGET** THE OTHERS, ME BUCKOS--

--AN' CONCENTRATE YER FIRE ON YON GREEN **BEASTIE**!

YOU **HEARD** HIM, GUYS--**BLAST AWAY**!

HE'S GOTTA HAVE A **WEAK SPOT** SOMEWHERE!

SPOW!

SPOW!

WEAK SPOT?

SPWEEE

SPAK!

SPANG!

FOOLISH LITTLE MEN, HULK HAS NO **WEAK SPOT**!

"HULK IS THE **STRONGEST** ONE THERE IS!!

BWA-

DOOOM!

YOU ATTACKED HULK, LITTLE MEN--

--AND NOW YOU WILL PAY FOR IT!!

C-C-CAP'N SIR... HELP!!

C'MON, YE SCURVY SWABS-- PILE ON 'IM!

THAT OVER-GROWN BEASTIE CAN'T STOP YE ALL!!

WRONG, ONE-EYE... HULK CAN SMASH ANYONE!!

THROK!

AND NOW, LITTLE MAN-- HULK WILL SMASH YOU!!

SPAK!

BUT IN HIS PRIMITIVE FURY, THE GREEN GOLIATH HAS FAILED TO NOTICE HOW THE RAGING FIRE HAS WEAKENED THE CABLES OF THE FREIGHTER'S CARGO-HOIST...

...UNTIL IT QUITE LITERALLY LOWERS THE...

BOOM!

AND, CAUGHT **OFF-BALANCE** BY THIS UNEXPECTED ASSAULT, THE ASTONISHED **MAN-MONSTER** PLUNGES HEADLONG INTO HIS **LEAST** FAVORITE ELEMENT...

...WHERE HE IS SWIFTLY LOST FROM **SIGHT!**

CAPTAIN, WE SEARCHED ALL THE **HOLDS** AN' SUCH-- AN' WE CAN'T **FIND** YOUR GIZMO **ANYWHERE!**

CURSE 'EM ALL! THE LUBBERS MUST'VE THROWN IT **OVERBOARD!**

A'RIGHT, THE **LOT** O' YE-- BACK TO THE **SHIP!**

AND EVEN AS THESE MODERN-DAY **BRIGANDS** RETURN TO THE SAFETY OF THEIR WAITING **SUBMARINE,** THE FIRE ON THE DECK OF THE **ROTTERDAM** RAGES ON **OUT OF CONTROL...**

...UNTIL, MERE MINUTES **LATER,** THE MORTALLY-RAVAGED VESSEL SETTLES DOWN TO A WATERY **GRAVE!**

A HEAD COUNT OF THE **SURVIVORS** WILL SHOW ONLY ONE MAN **MISSING:** THE NONDESCRIPT **NEW HAND!**

THAT'S **IT,** YE SCURVY LOW-LIFES --**ROW!** YE MAY HAVE PUT A **DENT** IN ME PLANS-- --BUT YE HAVEN'T **STOPPED** ME!

THE WORLD AIN'T HEARD THE **LAST** OF-- **CAP'N BARRACUDA!**

AND ON **THAT** RATHER THREATENING NOTE, WE MUST TURN OUR ATTENTION TO A PLACID LITTLE TROPICAL ISLAND SEVERAL NAUTICAL MILES TO THE **SOUTH--**

--AN ISLAND THE **LIKES** OF WHICH YOUNG **NEWLYWEDS** AND THEIR **TRAVEL AGENTS** CAN ONLY **DREAM** ABOUT!

BUT TODAY, HOWEVER, THIS UNSUSPECTING ISLAND PARADISE WILL PLAY RELUCTANT HOST TO ONE WHO DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD VACATION...

BAH! WHERE IS HULK NOW?

WITH CUSTOMARY MYOPIA, THE DRIPPING-WET MAN-BRUTE PAYS NO HEED TO THE LUSH VEGETATION, TO THE GRACEFULLY SWAYING PALMS...

IT IS ONLY... ISLAND.

THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY, PEOPLE SIT IN CRAMPED LITTLE OFFICES AND FANTASIZE IN VAIN ABOUT SANDY WHITE BEACHES SUCH AS THE ONE THE FURIOUS HULK NOW STOMPS ACROSS--

--BUT ALAS, IN HIS SEETHING RAGE, THE VERDANT SPLENDOR OF THIS TINY ISLE IS ALL BUT LOST ON THE JADE-HUED GIANT!

AT LAST, HIS EMERALD SKIN DRIED BY THE TROPICAL SUN, AND HAVING NOTHING BETTER TO DO, THE WEARY HULK SET DOWN TO A TROUBLED, FITFUL SLEEP...

...A SLEEP WHICH SEEMS DESTINED TO BE INTERRUPTED!

ROWF! ROWF!

WHAT IS IT YOU'VE FOUND, MY FRIEND?

A FOOTPRINT, EH?

IT ISN'T MINE-- IT'S MUCH TOO LARGE!

BUT OF COURSE-- AT LAST, HE'S COME!

"SWIFTLY, MY FRIEND--RUN! WE MUST SEEK HIM OUT AT ONCE!"

AND, WITHIN MOMENTS...

ROWF! BROWF!

HUH? GO AWAY, DOG! DO NOT BOTHER HULK NOW! HULK WANTS TO...

DOG?

HELLO, DOG.

HAVE YOU COME TO BE HULK'S FRIEND?

WE ARE ALL FRIENDS HERE, OLD COMPANION!

HUH? WH-WHO ARE YOU?!?

COME NOW, FRIDAY--SURELY YOU RECOGNIZE ME!

I'M YOUR OLD COMRADE--

ROBINSON CRUSOE!!*

FRY-DAY?

*YOU REMEMBER ROBIN FROM MARVEL CLASSICS #19, RIGHT?--LEN.

HULK DOES NOT KNOW YOU, LITTLE MAN!

LEAVE--OR HULK WILL SMASH!!

LEAVE YOU--AFTER I'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR YOUR RETURN? SURELY YOU JEST, MY FRIEND!

YOUR COMPANY MEANS MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF TO ME!

FOR A MOMENT, THE STARTLED HULK HESITATES, STUDYING THE STRANGE LITTLE MAN BEFORE HIM--THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THE BEARDED ONE'S EYES, SOMETHING INNOCENT, SOMETHING MAD--AND THE GREEN GOLIATH QUICKLY REALIZES...

LITTLE MAN WANTS TO BE HULK'S FRIEND?

I AM YOUR FRIEND, FRIDAY!

AH, SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED SINCE I SAW YOU LAST, OLD COMRADE!

BUT I WILL TELL YOU ALL WHEN WE RETURN TO THE BOWER!

HULK IS NOT FRIDAY, LITTLE MAN--HULK IS HULK!

AYE, FRIDAY... WHATEVER YOU SAY!

BAH!

AND, SHORTLY...

WE ARE *HERE*, OLD FRIEND! WELCOME ONCE MORE TO MY *BOWER!*

HUHN--LOOKS MORE LIKE WOODEN *FORT* TO HULK!

INDEED, MY FRIEND-- ONE CANNOT BE TOO *CAREFUL* ON OUR *ISLAND OF DESPAIR!*

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT BETTER THAN *ANYONE*, FRIDAY!

HULK!

SO YOU KEEP *SAYING!*

THEN WHY DOES LITTLE MAN NOT *UNDERSTAND?*

WHAT'S IN A *NAME* AFTER ALL, MY FRIEND-- WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY MORE *IMPORTANT* THINGS TO CONCERN US!

NOW THERE ARE *TWO* OF US HERE TO *PROTECT* OUR PRECIOUS *TREASURE!*

HUH?

"IT IS ONLY... *MACHINE!*"

AYE, MY FRIEND-- BUT *WHAT* A MACHINE!

BAH! BIG MACHINE... *SMALL* MACHINE... MACHINE IS ONLY *MACHINE!*

BUT YOU'RE *WRONG* OLD COMRADE! WAIT TILL YOU SEE WHAT *THIS* MACHINE CAN *DO!*

AND AS HIS WILD-EYED HOST BUSIES HIMSELF AT THE MECHANISM'S CONTROLS, THE HULK STARES UNEASILY AT THE MYSTERIOUS DEVICE...

...AS IF, SOMEWHERE DEEP WITHIN HIS MUDDLED MIND, THE MEMORIES OF ROBERT BRUCE BANNER WERE ATTEMPTING TO SCREAM A WARNING!

THERE, MY FRIEND-- IS IT NOT LOVELY?

BAH! HULK DOES NOT LIKE MACHINE!

AS YOU WISH, MY FRIEND.

TURN IT OFF, LITTLE MAN-- TURN IT OFF!!

BUT YOU REALLY SHOULD NOT ALLOW...

RRAARGH!!

WHAT--?!?

QUICKLY, FRIDAY-- COME WITH ME!

WE ARE UNDER ATTACK!!

NOT WHO, MY FRIEND-- BUT RATHER WHAT!

ATTACK? BUT WHO WOULD ATTACK LITTLE MAN'S FORT?

"THE ISLAND'S SAVAGE BEAST-MEN ARE ON THE PROWL ONCE MORE!"

BAAAA

RRAAGH?!

BEWARE, MY FRIEND, OR WE WILL...

NO, LITTLE MAN-- PUT AWAY YOUR PUNY GUN!

HULK WILL DEAL WITH HOWLING BEAST-MEN...

...AS ONLY HULK CAN!!

WHOOOM!

GRARRGH!

HUH?

GET OFF HULK'S BACK, BEAST-MAN!

HULK SAID-- GET OFF!!

GGRRUNNNHH!!

WHUMP!

HULK DOES NOT KNOW WHERE BEAST-MEN CAME FROM...

RRARR!

RRARR!!

RR..?

...BUT IF PUNY BEAST-MEN TRY TO ATTACK HULK AGAIN...

RARR..?

...HULK KNOWS WHERE BEAST-MEN ARE GOING!!

AND INDEED, WHEN THE TWO APE-LIKE BEINGS AT LAST PLUCK THEMSELVES FROM THE TREES ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE ISLAND, IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THEY CONSIDER RETURNING!

PUNY BEAST-MEN WILL NOT BOTHER LITTLE ANIMALS AGAIN WHILE HULK IS HERE!

MAGNIFICENT, MY FRIEND-- ABSOLUTELY MAGNIFICENT!

WHAT ADVENTURES WE SHALL HAVE WITH YOU BY MY SIDE!

AND AT THAT INSTANT, ALMOST AS IF ON CUE...

SPA-KOW!

WHA--?!?

M-MY WEAPON--!?!

WHO DARES...?

I DARE, YE SCURVY KNAVE! CARE TA MAKE SOMETHIN' OF IT?

HUH? THAT VOICE--HULK KNOWS THAT VOICE!

IT IS...

ONE-EYE!!

THE NAME BE CAP'N BARRACUDA, YE UGLY BEASTIE-- THE SCOURGE O' THE SEVEN SEAS, AN' SOON THE FIRST ADMIRAL O' THE WHOLE BLAMED WORLD!

AN' IF YE KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FER YE, YE'LL NOT BE MANHANDLIN' ME MATES THIS TIME--

--OR ME FIRST MATE, MR. STARKEY HERE, WILL OPEN FIRE--AN' SCATTER THE PIECES O' YER BEARDED FRIEND ALL OVER THIS BLASTED ISLAND!!

NEXT ISSUE: FURY at 20,000 LEAGUES! BE HERE!

INCREDIBLE HULK®

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THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

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MY RAY-MACHINE HAS TRANSFORMED YOUR FRIEND INTO AN ANIMAL, HULK!

NOW WAIT'LL YOU SEE WHAT IT DOES TO YOU!

ERNIE CHAN 1977

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered *Fury*—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

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PLOTTER/EDITOR SCRIPTER ARTISTS COLORIST LETTERER

FURY AT 5000 FATHOMS!

IMAGINE THAT **YOU** ARE THE **MIGHTIEST MORTAL** ON THE FACE OF THE **EARTH!**

THEN **IMAGINE** THAT YOU'VE BEEN WASHED ASHORE ON A **TROPICAL ISLAND**--AND THAT YOU'VE **BE-FRIENDED** A MAN WHO THINKS HE'S **ROBINSON CRUSOE!**

DO YEAR **HEAR** ME, BEASTIE? ONE **STEP** AN' YER FRIEND HERE BECOMES **FOOD** FER THE **FISHES**--

--OR ME NAME'S NOT **CAP'N BARRACUDA!**

IMAGINE ALL **THAT,** AND YOU CAN JUST **BEGIN** TO REALIZE THE PREDICAMENT OF THE EVER-INCREDIBLE **HULK** AT THIS MOMENT--KNOWING THAT, **DESPITE** ALL HIS **POWER,** HE IS **HELP-LESS** TO SAVE HIS **FRIEND!**

OR...IS HE?

DO NOT **WORRY,** ONE-EYE-- HULK WILL NOT **MOVE!**

HULK DOESN'T **NEED** TO MOVE!!

WHA-

BOOM!

AND WITH THAT ONE **EARTH-SHAKING** BLOW, THE GREAT GREEN BEHEMOTH SENDS **MILLIONS** OF GRAINS OF SAND FLYING WITH THE FORCE OF A SMALL **HURRICANE!**

YAHHH! **STOP HIM! SOMEBODY** STOP HIM!

NO, YE SCURVY **FOOLS--DON'T FIRE!** YE'LL ONLY HIT **EACH OTHER!**

KA-

BLAM

HULK WILL **TEACH** YOU NOT TO HURT HULK'S **FRIENDS!**

STUPID PIRATES! HOW MANY TIMES MUST HULK **SMASH** YOU BEFORE YOU WILL **LEARN?** *

*OL' JADE-JAWS MANHANDLED ABOUT **HALF** OF BARRACUDA'S MEN JUST LAST ISH-- LEN.

SAVE A BIT OF THE *ACTION* FOR LAD AND ME, FRIDAY!*

WE'LL SHOW THESE *BLOODY MOORS* A THING OR TWO!

GRRRR

*"ROBIN" THINKS THAT THE HULK IS FRIDAY, *REMEMBER?* --LEN AGAIN.

THE SIT-CHEW-ASHUN'S OUTTA *CONTROL*, MR. STARKEY! IF THAT *MACHINE* IS ABOUT, WE'D BEST BE *FINDIN'* IT-- AN' *FAST!*

AYE, CAP'N! LET'S TRY THAT *TENT* OVER THERE!

COR', MATE--*THERE* SHE BE, JUST THE WAY PURVIS *DE-SCRIBED* HER! THE DAY'S *OURS* FOR SURE NOW!

QUICK, GIVE ME A *HAND*--!

AND, IN MERE MOMENTS...

AWRIGHT, BEASTIE-- *DROP THAT SWAB!*

HUH?

IF THERE BE *ANYTHING* ON LAND OR SEA THAT'LL *DROP* YE, 'TIS A GOOD DOSE O' *THIS!*

AYE, MATEY? HA-HA-HA-*HA-HA!*

BEE!

OOWW!

FOR THE SPACE OF ONE HEART-BEAT, THE JADE GIANT STARES **BLANKLY** AT HIS FOES, AS IF UN-ABLE TO **BELIEVE** THE AWESOME FORCE WHICH HAS **STRUCK** HIM.

AND THEN, THE **FULL EFFECTS** OF THE CONCENTRATED **RAY-BLAST** HIT HIM--

--AND THE **BATTLE** COMES TO A SWIFT AND **SUDDEN END.**

THUD!

YOU SLIMY **PIRATES!** I WON'T **REST** UNTIL YOU'VE **PAID** FOR THIS!

THEN YE'LL NOT BE RESTIN' FER **SOME TIME,** MR. "CRUSOE"--NOT THAT YER IN A **POSITION** TO DO MUCH ABOUT IT!

TAKE 'IM **AWAY,** ME BUCKOS!

AN' **YOU THERE**-- BE **CAREFUL** LOADIN' THAT CONTRAPTION! **ALL** OUR FORTUNES REST ON IT!

PUT SO MUCH AS A **SCRATCH** ON IT, AN' YE'LL BE **ANSWERIN'** TO **ME!**

I'LL HAVE YOU IN **CHAINS** FOR THIS! I'M THE **GOVERNOR** OF THIS ISLAND!

SORRY, **GUV'NOR,** BUT I GOT ME **ORDERS.**

YIP! YIP!

WELL, NOW-- WHAT'S **THIS?** HULLO, BOY! DOES YE WANT TO COME ALONG WITH OL' STARKEY AN' BE A **SEADOG?**

MISTER STARKEY-- IF YE'LL BE BRING-ING THAT **MUTT** ALONG, THEN **DO** SO AN' BE **QUICK** ABOUT IT!

WE'VE NO MORE TIME TO **WASTE** HERE!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE **NEW MEXICAN DESERT**, AT THE PARA-MILITARY INSTALLATION KNOWN AS **GAMMA BASE**...

GENERAL **ROSS?** THIS IS THE MAIN GATE, SIR-- **DOCTOR SAMSON** HAS **RETURNED!**

GAMMA-BAS

POST 3

LIKE SOME EMERALD-HAIRED **GOD**, THE PSYCHIATRIST/STRONG-MAN **STRIDES** ACROSS THE COMPOUND--

--SO LOST IN **THOUGHT**, THAT HE DOES NOT EVEN **NOTICE** THE JEEP **BEARING DOWN** ON HIM...

SAMSON! HOLD UP THERE, MAN! WE NEED TO **TALK!**

EH? OH... HELLO, GENERAL. SORRY I DIDN'T REPORT IN **EARLIER**. I'VE BEEN **...PREOCCUPIED.**

I READ ABOUT THE HULK'S... **DISAPPEARANCE.** DO **YOU** THINK HE'S **DEAD?**

NO. BUT **SHIELD** DOES, SO IT'S OUT OF MY **HANDS.** RIGHT NOW, I HAVE **OTHER** WORRIES--

--LIKE, WHERE THE **BLAZES** HAVE **YOU** BEEN FOR THE PAST **FOUR DAYS?**

"WELL, I **ORIGINALLY** LEFT BASE TO CLEAR MY HEAD -- BUT MY **SELF-HELP THERAPY** WAS RUDELY INTERRUPTED BY THE **RHINO**, SO I SPENT THE BETTER PART OF A DAY **TANGLING** WITH HIM.*

SALOON

*HULK #216--LEN.

AFTER **THAT**...WELL, I STILL HAD SOME THINKING TO DO, SO I JUST **WALKED** BACK TO BASE.

TELL ME, HOW'S OUR **MYSTERY AMNESIAC** BEEN FARING IN MY BSENCE?

THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO **TALK** TO YOU ABOUT!

YOU SEE... HE'S **DISAPPEARED!**

IN THE STILL DESERT AIR, YOU CAN ALMOST **HEAR** THE GASP OF SURPRISE ESCAPE FROM SAMSON'S LIPS.

BUT, DEEP IN THE CARIBBEAN, A SOMEWHAT MORE **LABORED** GASP TEARS LOOSE FROM THE LUNGS OF OUR INCREDIBLE **MAN-MONSTER...**

UNNGH.

HULK HURTS... **BURNS.** WHAT **HIT** HULK--?

WAIT! NOW HULK **REMEMBERS--!**

ONE-EYE!

IF THE HULK'S **GAZE** COULD CARRY THE SAME POWER AS HIS **MIGHTY THEWS,** CAPTAIN BARRACUDA WOULD BE ON THE **CRITICAL LIST** AT THIS MOMENT.

AS IT IS, THE MODERN-DAY PIRATE IS **OBLIVIOUS** TO HIS **DANGER.**

JUST HOW **LONG** HE WILL **REMAIN** THAT WAY IS ANYONE'S GUESS--

--BUT IT PROBABLY **WON'T** BE FOR LONG!

SO, ONE-EYE **THINKS** HE CAN **STOP** HULK...STEAL **HULK'S FRIENDS!**

BUT ONE-EYE IS **WRONG!**

HULK WILL MAKE ONE-EYE **WISH** HE'D NEVER BEEN **BORN!**

AND **DESPITE** HIS GREAT DISLIKE FOR THE WATER--OR PERHAPS **BECAUSE** OF IT--THE GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH KNIFES THROUGH THE WAVES TO THE SHIP IN MERE **INSTANTS.**

TWICE TODAY, HULK HAS GOTTEN **WET** BECAUSE OF ONE-EYE! HULK IS GETTING **TIRED** OF THIS!

HUH? NOW WATER IS **RISING UP** AFTER HULK?!

NO, STUPID SHIP IS **SINKING!** HULK MUST **STOP** IT-- BUT **HOW?**

ARRHH! THIS WILL **NOT** STOP HULK! HULK WILL STOP SHIP, IF HULK HAS TO GO TO THE **BOTTOM** OF THE **SEA!**

THE BOTTOM MAY WELL BE WHERE THE HULK WILL **HAVE** TO GO, FOR AS HE SINKS HIS FINGERS **DEEP** INTO THE STEEL OF THE SUBMARINE'S **CONNING TOWER--**

--AND CLAMPS HIS MOUTH **TIGHTLY SHUT** TO HOLD IN WHATEVER **AIR** HE HAS--

--THE SUB DROPS DOWN...DOWN...**DOWN,** PLUNGING INTO AN OPENING FAR BENEATH THE **CONTINENTAL SHELF.**

LONG MINUTES **LATER,** BARRACUDA'S CRAFT SURFACES AMID SURROUNDINGS THAT MAKE IT LOOK ALMOST **ORDINARY** BY COMPARISON--

--AN EERILY-LIT SUB-SEA **CAVERN,** HOLDING A TECHNOLOGICAL **WONDER-CITY** THAT IS DECADES AHEAD OF **ANYTHING** ON THE **SURFACE!**

YET, AS THE SUB SLIPS GENTLY INTO ITS **BERTH,** ITS AFTERDECK IS **EMPTY** OF ANY GREEN-SKINNED HITCHHIKER.

DO YE **LIKE** ME LITTLE HIDEAWAY, CRUSOE? MR. STARKEY AND MESELF **STUMBLED** ACROSS IT NOT QUITE A **YEAR** AGO.

FROM WHAT WE CAN **TELL,** IT WAS BUILT BY AN OLD SALT NAME OF **OMEN.***

*CAPTAIN OMEN, OF COURSE--LAST SEEN IN ISSUE #165--LEN.

SEEMS HE JUST UP AN' GOT **TIRED** OF THE PLACE ONE DAY--AN' **CLEARED OUT!**

CONVENIENT FOR **US**--EH, MR. STARKEY?

AYE, SIR--IT **WAS!**

BUT BARRACUDA WOULD NOT BE SO **SMUG,** WOULD HE BUT GLANCE **BACK** TOWARDS HIS **SUBMARINE**--

--TO SEE THE WATERS OFF HER STARBOARD BOW BEGIN TO **CHURN** AND **BUBBLE**--

--AND YIELD UP A MOST **UNWELCOME GUEST!**

UUAAH! AIR!

ONE-EYE TRIED TO **TRICK** HULK WITH SINKING SHIP--BUT NOW IT IS **HULK'S** TURN!

NOW IS THE MOMENT, **INDEED!** WITH ONE MIGHTY **LEAP,** THE HULK COULD BE IN THE VERY **MIDST** OF HIS **FOES**--

--AND YET, **SOMETHING** HOLDS HIM **BACK. PERHAPS** HE IS WARY OF BARRACUDA'S MYSTERIOUS **MACHINE**-- OR PERHAPS HE MERELY WISHES TO SPARE HIS NEW FRIEND FROM **HARM.**

WHATEVER HIS REASON, THE VERDANT COLOSSUS **EASES** OUT OF THE WATER AND FOLLOWS THE PIRATES WITH UNCUSTOMARY **STEALTH**--

--STALKING **CLOSE BEHIND** BARRACUDA'S PARTY UNTIL THEY REACH THEIR DESTINATION.

LABORATORY

THAT'S IT, MR. CRUSOE-- **STRAIGHT AHEAD** TO ME LAB! WE'VE GOT US A BIT O' **TESTIN'** TO DO!

LAB? **TEST?** THOSE ARE PUNY BANNER WORDS! WHAT DOES ONE-EYE **MEAN?**

AND WHILE THE **BEFUDDLED MAN-BRUTE** PONDERS THE JARGON OF HIS ALTER-EGO--

--INSIDE THE LAB COMPLEX, THE PIRATE LEADER PREPARES TO BEGIN HIS "TESTS".

THERE, NOW--ARE YE COMFORTABLE, MR. CRUSOE...OR SHOULD I SAY... DR. PURVIS?

PURVIS? I DON'T KNOW ANY PURVIS!

OH, NO? WELL, THEN, LET ME BE TELLIN' YE A LITTLE STORY I KNOW.

"IT SEEMS THERE WAS THIS GROUP O' SCIENTISTS WHO BUILT A GRAND MACHINE FER STIMULATIN' CELL GROWTH--MAKIN' WOUNDS HEAL FASTER--BUT THEY WAS A BIT AFRAID OF IT."

LOOK, DORMAN--IN THEORY IT SHOULD WORK. BUT WE'RE USING A GAMMA-RAY POWER SOURCE TO GENERATE THE NEUROGENIC RAYS!

WE DON'T DARE TEST IT IN ANY INHABITED AREA!

"SO THEY BUNDLED UP THEIR EQUIPMENT, AND WENT OFF TO A REMOTE ISLAND, WHERE THEY COULD TEST TO THEIR HEARTS' CONTENT.

"WELL, MATE, THE TESTIN' WENT JUST FINE UNTIL ONE DAY SOMETHIN' IN THE MACHINE'S POWER SOURCE FUSED A BUNCH A' CIRCUITS AND THEN IT KICKED UP ONE AWFUL SQUALL!

"ONLY ONE O' THEM SCIENTISTS--A YOUNG BUCK NAME O' DAVID PURVIS--WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE BEHIND SOME SHIELDIN' WHEN THE CONTRAPTION CUT LOOSE.

"THE REST O' THE LOT HAD THEIR CELLS RE-ARRANGED SOMEHOW, AND DEVOLVED INTO APELIKE BEAST-MEN!

"'TWAS JUST **LUCKY** FER DR. PURVIS THAT HIS FORMER MATES WERE CONTENT TO WRECK SOME **TEST EQUIPMENT**--AN' NOT **HIM** --BEFORE THEY LUMBERED OFF.

"NOW, PURVIS SENT OFF A RADIO **DISTRESS CALL** EXPLAININ' HIS PREDICAMENT BUT THERE WAS A LOT O' **SUNSPOT** INTEFERENCE THAT YEAR--

--AN' WHEN HE GOT NO ANSWER, THE **SHOCK** AND THE **LONELINESS** BEGAN TO TELL ON HIM.

"HIS LAST TRANSMISSION WAS **VERY** ODD. HE SEEMED TO BE LAPSIN' INTO CHILDISH **FANTASIES** --IMAGININ' THAT HE WAS...

...**ROBINSON CRUSOE!**"

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED NOW-- **ISN'T** IT, DR. PURVIS? AH, BUT YER A LUCKY MAN--MR. STARKEY **PICKED UP** BITS AN' PIECES O' YER CALLS. WE BEEN LOOKIN' FER YE **EVER SINCE!**

I...DON'T KNOW ANY PURVIS. MY NAME IS... CRUSOE.

AS YE **WISH**, SIR. MR. STARKEY, OUR GUEST LOOKS **TIRED**--

--WHY DON'T YE MAKE HIM A BIT MORE **COMFORTABLE?**

WILL DO, CAP'N SIR!

GET YOUR HANDS **OFF** ME, YOU **BLACKGUARDS!** WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE **DOING?**

DOIN'? WHY WE'RE MAKIN' YE THE **GUEST O' HONOR** IN A GREAT SCIENTIFIC TEST!

SMILE **NICELY** NOW!

AND, AS BARRACUDA'S FINGER PUNCHES THE **REMOTE POWER SWITCH**, THE AWESOME ENERGIES DEEP WITHIN THE IMPOSING MASS OF METAL ARE CHANNELED INTO A SINGLE **IRRESISTABLE BEAM**--

--THAT SEARS DEEP INTO THE MAN ON THE LAB TABLE...ALTERING THE FUNCTIONS OF CERTAIN GLANDS, **MUTATING** HIS CELLULAR STRUCTURE, TWISTING HIS BODY INTO A **GROTESQUE** AND **DISTURBING** COMBINATION OF THE HUMAN--AND THE **BEAST!**

CAP'N... I KNEW WHAT TO **EXPECT,** BUT SEEIN' IT HAPPEN IS--IS **BLOODY WEIRD!**

THAT IT **IS,** MR. STARKEY --WEIRD BE-YOND ME **WILDEST DREAMS!**

JUST **THINK** OF IT, MAN! NOT A SHIP AFLOAT CAN STAND UP TO A FORCE THAT CAN TURN THEIR CREW INTO **MINDLESS BRUTES!** WE'LL **RULE** THE BLASTED **WAVES!**

AWRIGHT, YE SWABS--GET OUR GUEST TO HIS NEW QUARTERS WHILST HE'S STILL **DOCILE.**

BUT, **UNBENOWNST** TO BARRA-CUDA, HIS LITTLE TEST HAS NOT GONE ENTIRELY **UNNOTICED.**

CREW-SO?

MINUTES LATER, THE TRANSFORMED **CRUSOE**--OR IS IT **PURVIS?**--STARES **MUTELY** AT HIS FORMET PET--

--AS IF SOMEHOW **TRYING** TO REMEMBER WHERE HE'S SEEN THE DOG BEFORE.

HELLO THERE, HAIRY! IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN GET FOR YOU? **EXTRA TOWELS**... A LITTLE ROOM SERVICE? **HA-HA-HA!**

I THOUGHT OL' BARRACUDA HAD GONE **CRAZIER** THAN **USUAL** WITH ALL HIS RAVING ABOUT THAT **MACHINE**--BUT I GOTTA **HAND** IT TO HIM!

IT **LOOKS** LIKE HIS PLANS ARE REALLY GONNA COME--

OOOOFFFF!

SMAK! WHUUMP! THUD!

ERKK?

KA-BOOM

CREW-SO! HULK HAS COME TO **SAVE** YOU!

NGHH?

CREW-SO?

CREW-SO, **LISTEN** TO HULK-- YOU ARE **NOT** STUPID BEAST-MAN! YOU ARE **CREW-SO!** CREW-SO-- HULK'S **FRIEND!**

ONE-EYE DID THIS TO YOU WITH **MACHINE!**

OOK?

DON'T YOU **UNDERSTAND** HULK? YOU ARE CREW-SO! **CREW-SO!** YOU CALLED HULK **FRY-DAY!**

YOU **MUST** REMEMBER! **PLEASE.**

*THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THE HULK'S **PLEADING**--AN INDEFINABLE SOMETHING THAT **REACHES OUT** FROM ONE MONSTER TO ANOTHER--*

*--AND TOUCHES A KINDRED **SOUL!***

COME WITH HULK, CREW-SO! HULK WILL GET YOU AND DOG BACK TO YOUR ISLAND...

WURF!

...SOMEHOW.

BUT, AS THE ODD TRIO MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE UNDER-SEA CITY, THEY DO NOT NOTICE THE SCRUFFY FIGURE WHO PAIN-FULLY INCHES HIS WAY TO AN ALARM SWITCH--

--AND, WITH THE FADING REMNANTS OF HIS STRENGTH, PULLS.

CAN YOU AND DOG SWIM, CREW-SO?

UUK?

NEVER MIND--HULK WILL FIND A WAY OUT.

HOWEVER, BEFORE THE GREEN BEHEMOTH CAN MAKE ANY PLANS...

WHA--? THE HULK--HERE?!

LORD ABOVE, WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO STOP YE, BEASTIE?

NOTHING CAN STOP HULK, ONE-EYE! NOTHING!!

YOU HAVE THREATENED HULK FOR THE LAST TIME!

HULK WAS TOO CAREFUL BEFORE, AND ONE-EYE HURT HULK'S FRIEND--TURNED HIM INTO STUPID BEAST-MAN!

THOOM

HULK WILL *NOT* MAKE THAT MISTAKE *AGAIN!*

THIS TIME, **HULK** *SMASHES* EVERY-*THING!*

C-CAP'N, HE *MEANS* IT! HIS POUNDIN' HAS JUST SMASHED THE MAIN *POWER CONDUITS!*

DON'T JUST *STAND* THERE, MATE-- HEAD FOR THE BLOODY *LAB!*

BEGGIN' YER *PARDON, SIR*, BUT SHOULDN'T WE BE SEEIN' TO THE POWER STATION *FIRST?* IF IT OVER-LOADS, IT'LL *BLOW* US ALL TO *KINGDOM COME!*

MR. STARKEY, IF WE DON'T *STOP* THAT GREEN BRUTE, WE WON'T HAVE A POWER STATION TO *SAVE!*

LABORATORY

PUNY PIRATES TRIED TO *HURT* HULK... HURT HULK'S *FRIEND!*

NEVER AGAIN!

HAVE YE *FERGOT* ME GRAND MACHINE SO *SOON*, HULK? *HAVE YE?*

THEN 'TIS PLAIN TO SEE THAT YE NEED *ANOTHER* LESSON--TO LEARN SOME RESPECT FER THE NAME O' *BARRACUDA!*

*LIKE HIS NAMESAKE, THE CAP-TAIN STRIKES COLDLY, SWIFTLY-- AND **MERCILESSLY.***

BEEE

MWOOW

*IT'S **NOT** THE SORT OF ACT THAT INSPIRES **RESPECT.***

YOU...TRY TO STOP HULK WITH ...MACHINE...*AGAIN?*

BAH! IT...IS USELESS. *NOTHING*...CAN STOP *HULK*...

...HULK IS...THE STRONGEST... ONE...

...THERE...

...ISSSS!

PERHAPS...BUT IT WOULD SEEM THAT ALL THE STRENGTH OF THE HULK IS **POWERLESS** TO PREVENT HIS RAY-TRIGGERED **TRANSFOR-MATION** INTO ROBERT BRUCE BANNER.

NNHH?

WELL, WHAT'RE YE GAPIN' AT, YE FOOLS? TO THE POWER PLANT WITH YE!

AYE, CAP'N! I ONLY HOPE WE CAN STOP THE OVER-LOADIN' IN TIME!

YE'LL HAVE TIME, STARKEY --YER GOOD AN' FAST ENOUGH TO DO THE JOB. IF YE WEREN'T, I'D HAVE THROWN YE TO THE SHARKS LONG AGO.

TIME...

...FOR THE CAPTAIN, IT'S JUST RUN OUT!

GRRRGH!

CRUSOE! NO, MAN-- NO!

YES.

YYYIIIIII

IN ONE SAVAGE MINUTE, "CRUSOE" TAKES CARE OF THE MAN WHO STOLE HIS HUMANITY--

--AND THEN HE TURNS TOWARD THE DEVICE WHICH MADE IT POSSIBLE.

THERE IS A GRIM DETERMINATION IN HIS GAIT, AS HE LOPES ACROSS THE FLOOR--

--AND STABS OUT AT ONE PARTICULAR BUTTON WITH HIS GNARLED APE'S FINGERS.

AND THEN, WAVE AFTER WAVE OF INEXORABLE ENERGY CASCADES FROM THE INFERNAL DEVICE, RADIATING THROUGH THE WALLS OF THE LAB--

--AND OUT INTO THE STREETS BEYOND, TURNING BARRACUDA'S MOTLEY CREW INTO WALKING NIGHTMARES OF COUNTER-EVOLUTION.

AMIDST ALL THE CHAOS, ONLY **ONE** BEAST-MAN SEEMS TO MOVE **WILL-FULLY**-- SEARCHING UNTIL HE LO-CATES A WAITING **EMERGENCY CRAFT.**

THEN, HE TURNS AND SCOOPS UP THE **UNCON-SCIOUS** FORM OF BRUCE BANNER-- THE **ONE MAN** WHOSE IRRADIATED BODY COULD **NOT** BE FURTHER AFFECTED.

YIP!

YIP!

GENTLY--AS A MOTHER WOULD HANDLE HER BABY--THE BEAST-MAN SETS BANNER DOWN IN THE CRAFT, PLACES THE **FAITHFUL DOG** AT HIS SIDE, AND THEN--

WURF!

--LEANING INTO THE CRAFT, HE SHOVES ITS **RELEASE LEVER** FORWARD!

ONCE THIS CREATURE WAS A RESPECTED **SCIENTIST**--

--THEN, FOR A WHILE, HE LED A LIFE OF **FICTIONAL FANCY.** NOW HE IS ONLY A **BEAST,** AND HE **KNOWS** THERE IS NO **PLACE** FOR HIM IN THE WORLD ABOVE.

AT LEAST, IN THIS WORLD **BELOW,** HE IS ABLE TO MEET HIS END... LIKE A **MAN!**

BUH-WOOOM!

IN THAT WORLD ABOVE, THE SUN SLOWLY BEGINS TO **SET** ON THIS MOST PLACID OF **ATLANTIC DAYS.**

TODAY, THESE WATERS HAVE **CLAIMED** A WHOLE **CITY** OF MONSTERS--

-- BUT **SPARED** THE LIFE OF **ONE.**

AND **WHO** IS TO SAY **WHICH** HAS BEEN **LUCKIER?**

NEXT ISSUE: **SHOW ME THE WAY TO GO HOME!**

INCREDIBLE HULK®

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THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

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NO! DON'T HURT HIM, GREENSKIN! STINGRAY IS THE ONE GUY WHO CAN HELP YOU!

THEN WHY IS HE BLASTING HULK?!

VALIDAR & RUBINSTEIN

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered *Fury*—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE INCREDIBLE HULK!** ™

ROGER STERN WRITER * SAL BUSCEMA & A. ALCALA ARTISTS * D. WOHL LETTERS * J. COHEN COLORS * A. GOODWIN EDITOR

SHOW ME THE WAY TO GO HOME

NO... NO, GET **BACK!** GET BACK... I DON'T **WANT** TO CHANGE. I... MUSTN'T LET THE HULK **LOOSE.**

=**BROWF**=
=BROWF=
=BROWF=

NO!

HUH?

=BER-RUFF=

WELL! **HELLO** THERE, FELLA! WHERE DID **YOU** COME FROM?

HAH! YOU SEEM PRETTY **GLAD** TO SEE ME. HAVE WE **MET?**

HMMM. OR WAS IT THE **HULK** THAT YOU MET?* AND FOR **THAT** MATTER...

... WHERE THE **DEVIL** AM I?

*IT WAS... IN ISSUE #219 -- ARCHIE.

WELL, WELCOME BACK TO THE LAND OF THE **LIVING!**

WHA--?

SORRY IF I **STARTLED** YOU THERE, FELLA.

JUST FOR THE **RECORD,** YOU'RE ABOARD THE GOOD SHIP **LADY DIANE**-- AND I'M YOUR BASIC SKIPPER, **WALTER NEWELL.***

SOME FOLKS TACK A "DOCTOR" ONTO THAT, BUT I'M NOT **BIG** ON TITLES.

*REMEMBER WALT FROM THE OLD **SUB-MARINER** SERIES? -- ARCH.

WELL, **THAT** EXPLAINS A **NUMBER** OF THINGS. I'M BRUCE... ROBERTS.

AND I GUESS I CAN THANK **YOU** FOR FISHING ME OUT OF THE **DRINK.**

NO THANKS **NECESSARY,** BRUCE. I'M JUST GLAD TO SEE YOU **AWAKE.**

AND I HAVE TO ADMIT I'M FULL OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT WILD **RESCUE CRAFT** WE FOUND YOU IN.

RESCUE CRAFT?

"**YES**. WE WERE ON AN OCEANOGRAPHIC **CHARTING VOYAGE**, WHEN WE CAME ACROSS YOU AND YOUR DOG IN THAT... WELL **SEA-SAUCER**, I GUESS.

"I'M REALLY **IMPRESSED** BY ITS DESIGN. IT'S **YEARS** AHEAD OF ANYTHING I'VE EVER SEEN."

OH, LORD-- HULK, WHAT DID YOU GET ME INTO **THIS** TIME?

UH... WALT, I DON'T **KNOW** ANYTHING ABOUT ANY RESCUE CRAFT. THIS'LL SOUND **CRAZY**, BUT--

--THE LAST THING I CAN **RE-MEMBER** IS THAT MY SHIP--THE ROTTERDAM --WAS **UNDER ATTACK** BY... PIRATES?

WELL, IT'S **NOT** CRAZY, BUT IT IS **STRANGE**. THE ROTTERDAM **WAS** SUNK YESTERDAY BY SOME MADMAN CALLED **BARRACUDA**.*

BUT THAT WAS **SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES** FROM HERE! HOW THE BLAZES--?

*HULK #219 --ARCHIE.

OH, WELL, THERE'S **GOT** TO BE SOME **LOGICAL EXPLANATION**. WE CAN WORRY ABOUT THAT **LATER**.

RIGHT **NOW**, I'D BETTER SEE TO GETTING YOU A **CHANGE** OF **CLOTHES**. WE'LL BE DOCKING IN **NEW YORK** SHORTLY.

NEW YORK? THAT'S **GREAT**! I'M ALMOST **HOME**!

YEP, WE'RE ALMOST IN **SIGHT** OF THE OL' BIG APPLE. TELL YA **WHAT**, AS SOON AS WE CHECK YOU IN WITH THE **HARBORMASTER**, WE'LL GO OVER THE SAUCER AND TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHAT **HAPPENED**.

HARBORMASTER? OH... SURE.

AND WHILE BRUCE CONTEMPLATES A **RUN-IN** WITH THE HARBOR **AUTHORITIES**--

--IN NEW MEXICO, THE PARA-MILITARY INSTALLATION KNOWN AS **GAMMA BASE** IS CAUGHT UP IN A **FLURRY** OF ACTIVITY.

CORRIDORS A-THRU-E ARE **SECURE**, SIR. NO SIGN OF AN **INTRUDER**.

WHAT ABOUT THE **LABS**, SIR?

AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

NEGATIVE, SOLDIER. THAT AREA'S BEEN **SEALED** ALREADY. WE'LL CHECK THE STORAGE DEPOT NEXT.

ONLY

AND SO, THE SECURITY SQUAD **PASSES BY** THE TOP SECRET LABORATORIES --

--WHERE THE VERY MAN THEY SEEK **HIDES**.

BUT PERHAPS "HIDES" IS NOT THE **PROPER** WORD. THIS BLOND STRANGER SEEMS **BARELY AWARE** OF HIS SURROUNDINGS.

IN FACT, HIS MOVEMENTS ARE STIFF, **PUPPETLIKE**, AS HE REACHES OUT TO A ROW OF INSTRUMENTS CONTAINING A CERTAIN **FATEFUL BUTTON**.

BLAST IT, MISTER, I DON'T WANT **EXCUSES**! I WANT **RESULTS**!

WHAAM

DO YOU INTEND TO **STAND THERE** AND TELL ME THAT YOUR BOYS CAN'T FIND **ONE LONE MAN** ON THIS BASE?

MY MEN HAVE BEEN OVER THE THE COMPOUND **THREE TIMES**, SIR.

OUR "JOHN DOE" JUST **ISN'T** HERE, **SIR**.

THERE **IS** ONE POSSIBILITY WE HAVEN'T **CONSIDERED**, GENERAL. MAYBE OUR MYSTERY GUEST JUST **WANDERED** OFF THE BASE.

ARE YOU **SERIOUS**, MAN?

DO YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO **BELIEVE** THAT A MAN WOULD WALK OUT ACROSS A **HUNDRED MILES** OF DESERT AND **DISAPPEAR**?

IN CASE YOU'VE **FORGOTTEN**, SIR, HE WALKED **IN** OUT OF THAT DESERT!

NOW, I **GRANT** YOU THAT IT'S A LITTLE FAR-FETCHED TO THINK THAT HE'D **LEAVE** THE SAME WAY--BUT HE **HAS** TO HAVE GONE **SOMEWHERE!**

TELL ME, CAPTAIN-- ARE YOU **SURE** YOU'VE SEARCHED THE **ENTIRE BASE**?

YES **SIR**, DOCTOR... EVERYWHERE BUT THE TOP SECURITY LABS. MOST OF MY MEN DON'T HAVE **CLEARANCE** FOR THAT AREA.

BESIDES, HE **COULDN'T** HAVE GOTTEN IN THERE.

HE **COULDN'T**?! CAPTAIN, I THINK WE'D BETTER **CORDON OFF** THE AREA AROUND THE LABS.

SOMETHING TELLS ME WE'RE IN FOR A BIT OF **TROUBLE**.

MEANWHILE, ON MANHATTAN'S WEST SIDE, THE LADY DIANE HAS JUST PUT IN AT A **NEWLY-REBUILT** DOCK AREA THAT'S THE PRIDE OF COLUMBINE UNIVERSITY'S OCEANOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT.

BUT RIGHT NOW, THOSE BRIGHT NEW WHARVES ARE THE FURTHEST THING FROM WALTER NEWELL'S MIND...

WHERE THE DEVIL IS ROBERTS?

YA MEAN OUR CASTAWAY, SKIPPER? HE JUST LEFT.

HE BUMMED A FEW BUCKS OFFA' ME AND TOOK OFF TO LOOK FOR A CAB. SOMETHING WRONG?

SOMETHING WRONG?! PLENTY'S WRONG! HE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO LEAVE THE SHIP!

BRUCE! HEY, BRUCE!

TOO LATE, THERE HE GOES. THE HARBORMASTER WILL HAVE MY TAIL FOR THIS.

TAXI

AH, WELL... HE WAS PROBABLY JUST ANOTHER MERCHANT SEAMAN WHO'D RUN AFOUL OF THE LAW IN SOME PORT.

WALT! HEY, WALT!

WHAT IS IT, FRANK?

I THOUGHT I'D SEEN THAT "ROBERTS" FELLOW BEFORE! TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!

"NOTED PHYSICIST ROBERT BRUCE BAN--"!

Scientific WEEKLY

HEAVEN HELP ME! I'VE JUST LET THE HULK LOOSE IN MANHATTAN!

INDEED, AT THAT MOMENT, THE SUBJECT OF DR. NEWELL'S FEARS IS BLOCKS AWAY AND MOVING FAST...

YA KNOW, A LOT O' CABBIES WOULDN'T PICK UP A GUY WITH A DOG.

IS THAT SO?

IT'S A FACT! BUT ME... I LIKE ANIMALS.

I'LL NEVER FERGIT THE TIME SHIRLEY-- THAT'S MY WIFE--

--AN' ME WERE UP IN THE ADIRONDACKS! THERE WUZ THIS KITTEN STUCK 'WAY OUT ON A TREE LIMB.

SO NATURALLY, I CLUMB OUT THERE TO SAVE THE CRITTER --AN' YA KNOW WHAT WHAT SHIRLEY SEZ?

H-HEY! TAKE IT EASY!

YEAH! SHE SEZ, "BERNIE, TAKE IT EASY! YER GONNA KILL YER-SELF!"

=UNNH=

WELL, I'M NOT SCARED O' NUTHIN', SO I SHINNY OUT THERE-- EASY AS YA PLEASE --AN' RESCUE THE LI'L KITTEN!

OL' SHIRL WUZ FIT TO BE TIED, BUT I JUS' TOLD HER--

--"SHIRL," I SEZ, "YA DON'T HAVE'TA WORRY ABOUT ME-- I AL-WAYS PLAY IT SAFE!"

OH, GOD.

AN' I DO, TOO! WHY I-- WHOOPS!

HEH! ALMOST MISSED YER TURN THERE.

TAXI

WHERE DID THIS GUY GET HIS LICENSE?

HE'S GOING TO GET US ALL KILLED!

AND BEFORE HE REALIZES WHAT IS HAPPENING TO HIM--

--THE FEAR GNAWING AT BANNER'S STOMACH BEGINS TO AFFECT HIS ADRENALIN FLOW. HIS HEARTBEAT STARTS TO RACE--

--HIS RESPIRATORY RATE AC-CELERATES; HE FEELS A SUDDEN SURGE OF STRENGTH; AND THEN -- AMAZINGLY--

--NOTHING HAPPENS!

I-I'M NOT THE HULK. MY GOD, I DID IT! I FOUGHT OFF THE CHANGE.

=WURF?=

I'M STILL ME!

HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT BACK THERE?

BERNIE, I'VE NEVER BEEN BETTER IN MY LIFE!

BOY, THAT'S A RELIEF!

FOR A MINUTE THERE, YOU WUZ LOOKIN' A LITTLE GREEN AROUND THE GILLS!

WELL, HERE WE ARE!

TAXI

THERE YOU GO, BERNIE, M'MAN --AND THANKS FOR A RIDE I'LL NEVER FORGET!

SURE THING, FELLA.

CHEE-- NICE TIP!

THATTABOY, UP THOSE STEPS!

I HOPE APRIL LIKES DOGS!

NOW WHY CAN'T I PICK UP MORE FARES LIKE THAT GUY? NICE FELLA... BIG TIPPER... NOT LIKE SOME A' THOSE...

...CHEAP...

...WEIRDOS?

AND WHILE BERNIE ASSESSES THE DAMAGE TO HIS CAB DOOR--

--BRUCE BANNER COMES HOME.

APRIL-- IT'S ME! I'M BACK!

WHAT?

OH, NO! NOT YOU! KEEP... KEEP AWAY FROM ME!

APRIL, WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT HAVE I ...?

NOOoooo

SLAM!

WHAT IN THE WORLD? I'VE NEVER SEEN HER ACT LIKE THAT BEFORE.

CLIK!

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

BRUCE! IS... IS THAT YOU?

HEEYYY-- JIM!

OH, MAN-- I THOUGHT YOU WERE REALLY DEAD THIS TIME!

NAW, NOT ME! I'M TOUGHER THAN I LOOK, REMEMBER?

YEAH, BUT HOW'D YOU EVER SURVIVE THAT FALL?

FALL? WHAT FALL?

FROM THE SHIELD HELICARRIER, MAN!

WHOA. SLOW DOWN AND START OVER!

MAYBE YOU COULD START BY TELLING ME WHAT'S WRONG WITH APRIL.

HEY... JIM?

OH, MAN... I'VE REALLY DONE IT THIS TIME.

I... I TOLD APRIL THAT YOU'RE THE **HULK!**

YOU WHAT?

WELL, YOU **WERE** PULLED INTO THE SKY BY **SHIELD**-- AND THEN THE **GOVERNMENT** REPORTED YOU **MISSING**--

--AND APRIL KEPT WANTING TO **KNOW** WHAT WAS GOIN' DOWN.

IT'S **NOT** LIKE I COULD **KEEP** IT FROM HER, YA KNOW!

IT'S... **OKAY, JIM.** IT'S NOT YOUR **FAULT.**

APRIL... CAN YOU **HEAR** ME?

APRIL, LISTEN KID... I **KNOW** HOW YOU MUST FEEL, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO **WORRY.** I WON'T **HURT** YOU.

APRIL, I'VE GOT THE HULK **UNDER CONTROL.** I-I'M NOT SURE **HOW** OR **WHY,** BUT I **STARTED** TO CHANGE ON THE WAY HERE, AND I **FOUGHT IT OFF!**

APRIL, ALL I ASK IS A **CHANCE.**

SLOWLY--EVER SO SLOWLY--THE DOOR EASES **OPEN.** AND THEN...

B-BRUCE?

APRIL... PLEASE.

I-I KNOW IT MUST HAVE BEEN A BIG **SHOCK** TO YOU. **BELIEVE** ME, I **TRIED** TO TELL YOU BEFORE.

OH, B-BRUCE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT...

OKAY, BANNER--HOLD IT **RIGHT THERE!**

HEY!

OH, **NO**--NOT **NOW!** OF ALL TIMES, **NOT NOW!**

YOU LEFT A **SURPRISINGLY** EASY TRAIL TO FOLLOW, BANNER. TRACING YOUR CAB WAS **SIMPLICITY** ITSELF!

NOW, I **DO** WANT TO **HELP** YOU... BRUCE --SO IF YOU'LL JUST **STAY CALM**, EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.

I HOPE YOU'LL **EXCUSE** ME IF I DON'T ACCEPT YOUR OFFER, NEWELL. SOMEHOW, IT SOUNDS A LITTLE TOO MUCH LIKE AN **ULTIMATUM!**

YOU **TELL** 'IM, BRUCE!

BRUCE... I DON'T **UNDERSTAND.** WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

I'M JUST TRYING TO TALK SOME **SENSE** INTO YOUR FRIEND, MA'AM.

COME ON, BANNER, YOU'RE A **SCIENTIST!** SURELY YOU RECOGNIZE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PUBLIC!

COME ALONG WITH ME, AND I **PROMISE** YOU'LL BE TREATED **FAIRLY.**

SORRY, WALT--I MIGHT TRUST **YOU**, BUT THE **AUTHORITIES** ARE ANOTHER MATTER!

HEY, **LOOK**-- I DON'T **WANT** TO USE FORCE, BUT IF I **HAVE** TO--!

DON'T **TRY** IT, MISTER!

I MIGHT HAVE THE HULK **UNDER CONTROL**, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT BRUCE BANNER CAN BE **PUSHED AROUND!**

I MAY BE **LITTLE**, BUT I'M **WIRY!**

WHUF!

DO I MAKE MYSELF **CLEAR?**

PERFECTLY. BUT IF YOU WON'T LISTEN TO **ME**--

--MAYBE YOU'LL PAY ATTENTION TO... STING-RAY!

OBOY.

BELIEVE ME, BANNER, I'M ONLY DOING THIS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!

ZZRKK

YEEOOWW!

DOCTOR... I FIND IT HARD TO TRUST SOMEONE WHO TOSSES AN ELECTRICAL CHARGE AT ME!

GET BACK, BRUCE! HE'S GONNA -- UNNHH!

JIM!

ZZAM

NO! I-I DIDN'T MEAN TO HIT THE BOY!

JIM! OMIGOD, NO! YOU--YOU--!

ONE MOMENT OF RAGE... THAT'S ALL IT TAKES--

--TO MAKE THE SLENDER SCIENTIST LOSE HIS FRAGILE CONTROL.

YOU HAVE KILLED HULK'S FRIEND!

WHA-BOOM!

G-GOOD LORD! NOT EVEN NAMOR HIMSELF EVER HIT ME LIKE THAT!

HAVE TO **ROLL** WITH THE IMPACT, AND HOPE MY SUB-SEA SUIT CAN CUSHION THE **SHOCK.**

HULK HAS HAD ENOUGH! EVERYTIME HULK FINDS FRIENDS, PEOPLE **HURT** THEM!

BUT **NO MORE!** DO YOU **HEAR** HULK, WING-MAN?

NO MORE!

FROM NOW ON, HULK SMASHES **ALL** ENEMIES!

NOW I'VE DONE IT!

PTANG!

I MAY BE GUILTY OF **MANSLAUGHTER** --AND THIS **MON-STER** IS GOING TO CARRY OUT HIS OWN SENTENCE!

ARRHH!

ZZAK

HULK--YOU'VE **GOT** TO HEAR ME OUT! I DIDN'T **MEAN** TO HURT THE BOY! IT WAS AN **ACCIDENT!**

YOU **HIT** HULK WITH RAYS AND THEN EXPECT HULK TO **LISTEN?**

YOU MUST THINK HULK IS **STUPID!**

WELL, HULK IS **NOT** STUPID--AND HULK WILL NOT LISTEN TO YOUR **LIES!**

SORRY, HULK, BUT I'M USED TO MANEUVERING IN THE **OCEAN'S DEPTHS--**

UHH?

--AND DODGING YOU IN THIS **LOWER PRESSURE** IS A **BREEZE!**

WHUMP!

HAVE TO HIT HIM WHILE HE'S **DOWN,** WITH BOTH **ELECTRO-BLASTERS,** AND HOPE IT'S ENOUGH TO **KNOCK** HIM **OUT!**

"HIT HIM WHILE HE'S DOWN"?! **BOY,** SOME HUMANI-TARIAN **I** AM!

AGAIN WING-MAN BLASTS HULK? WHEN WILL YOU LEARN THAT HULK CANNOT BE BEATEN?

ZZRAKK

IGNORING STING-RAY'S MOST POWERFUL BLASTS, THE MAN-MONSTER SINKS HIS MIGHTY FINGERS INTO THE VERY PAVEMENT AT HIS FEET...

NO ONE IS STRONGER THAN HULK! NO ONE!!

INDEED.

THWAM!

UNNH!

STRUCK SQUARELY BY THE CRUDE MISSILE, STING-RAY DROPS LIKE THE PROVERBIAL TON OF BRICKS.

HE HITS VERY HARD--

--AND LIES VERY STILL.

NOW HULK WILL HAVE REVENGE!

REVENGE!

DANGLING STING-RAY'S **SEMI-CONSCIOUS** FORM ABOVE THE CITY STREET LIKE A **RAG DOLL**, THE ENRAGED BRUTE PREPARES TO EXTRACT HIS POUND OF **FLESH**--

--QUITE **LITERALLY.**

HULK... I... I **AM** SORRY. DIDN'T MEAN... TO HURT...

LIES-- ALL LIES!

HULK WILL **STOP** YOUR LYING **NOW!**

HULK-- **DON'T!** **STOP!**

HUH?!

S-STAY **BACK**... IT'S... **TOO LATE.**

HULK-- IT'S **ME!** **JIM!** I'M OKAY, HULK! **DON'T** HIT **HIM!**

NO! WING-MAN TRIED TO **HURT** YOU-- BUT NO MORE!

WING-MAN WILL **NEVER** HURT ANYONE **AGAIN!**

HULK-- **DON'T!** YOU'LL **KILL** HIM, AND THEN THINGS'LL BE WORSE THAN EVER! **DON'T!**

"HULK DON'T --HULK DON'T!!"

HULK IS SICK AND TIRED OF HELPING FRIENDS, ONLY TO HEAR "HULK DON'T"!

TAKE STUPID WING-MAN! HE IS NOT WORTH HULK'S TIME!

AND NEITHER ARE HULK'S FRIENDS!

FRIENDS ... BAH!

THOOM!

OH, WOW!

JIM--WHERE IS HE GOING? WHAT'LL HE DO NOW?

I WISH I KNEW, LADY.

BROWF! BROWF!

HEY, NEWELL--YOU OKAY, MAN?

I'M PRETTY SORE AND BRUISED, BUT I'LL HEAL.

"RIGHT NOW, I THINK I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE MAN TRAPPED IN THAT BIG GREEN FRAME!

"IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT I MADE HIM LOSE CONTROL--"

--BUT IF I'VE ALSO TURNED HIM AGAINST HIS FRIENDS--!

WELL, WHAT HOPE CAN THE REST OF US HAVE?

=NNHH?=

NEXT ISSUE

FEEDING BILLY

A DECIDEDLY DIFFERENT HULK TALE BY LEN WEIN & JIM STARLIN.

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THE CAVERN OF BONES!

POSSIBLY THE MOST OFF-BEAT MAN-BRUTE MASTERWORK OF ALL!!

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ERNIE CHAN 1977

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered *Fury*—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®

LEN WEIN: SCRIPT & EDITING • JIM STARLIN: PLOTTING & LAYOUTS • ALFREDO ALCALA: FINISHED ART • GLYNIS GASPAR: COLORS : LETTERS

FEEDING Billy

THIS IS NOT A HAPPY PERSON!

AFTER ALL, WOULD **YOU** BE HAPPY IF YOUR AIMLESS WANDERINGS AROUND THE UPPER NEW YORK COUNTRY-SIDE HAD SUDDENLY PLOPPED YOU SMACK DAB IN THE CENTER OF A SMALE-SCALE WAR?

WOULD **YOU** BE HAPPY IF YOU SUDDENLY FOUND YOURSELF TOTALLY **ALONE**, AND CORNERED LIKE SOME **WILD** ANIMAL?

(WELL, NOT TOTALLY **ALONE** EXACTLY-- BUT IF WE **TOLD** YOU WHAT THESE TWO **CHILDREN** ARE DOING HERE, WE GUARANTEE YOU WOULDN'T **BELIEVE** US!)

IT IS NOT AT ALL **DIFFICULT** TO TELL WHERE THE MAN-BRUTE HAS **BEEN**--

--CONSIDERING THE CLEAR-CUT SWATH OF **DESTRUCTION** HE HAS CUT THRU THE RANKS OF MEN WHO, ONLY MINUTES BEFORE, HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN SIMPLE **MILITARY MANEUVERS.**

C'MON, YA GOLDBRICKS-- KEEP **MOVIN'!**

WE AIN'T GONNA LET THAT BIG GREEN GORILLA GET AWAY FROM **US!**

STAY **BACK,** LITTLE MEN!

THUS, WHAT REALLY **CONCERNS** EVERY-ONE RIGHT NOW IS WHERE THE HULK IN-TENDS **GOING!**

HULK DOES NOT WANT TO **FIGHT** WITH YOU, SOLDIERS!

--BUT IF YOU DO NOT LEAVE HULK **ALONE**--

--HULK WILL SMASH YOU **ALL!!**

AND THAT MONSTER'S GOT THE POWER TO **DO** IT, TOO!

I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY'VE CALLED IN THESE **JET PLANES!**

IF **THEY** CAN'T TAKE HIM-- **NOBODY** CAN!

THIS IS **BRAVO LEADER!** TARGET HAS BEEN SIGHTED AT **2 O'CLOCK!**

AT MY **COMMAND,** PREPARE TO...

WHAT IN--?!?

THIS IS BRAVO LEADER! HOLD YOUR **FIRE!** I REPEAT-- HOLD YOUR **FIRE!!**

THERE'S A COUPLE'A **KIDS** DOWN THERE-- STANDING SMACK ON **GROUND ZERO!**

HUH? SOUNDS IN SKY--!?

AGAIN PUNY HUMANS SEND THEIR PLANES TO ATTACK HULK!

BUT IF THEY THINK HULK WILL JUST WAIT FOR THEM TO STRIKE--

--THEY ARE WRONG!

SKRAKROOM!!

HULK WILL STRIKE FIRST--

--AND HULK WILL STRIKE HARDEST!!

HOLY SMOKE!

DID YOU SEE THAT, MARIE?

C'MON, YOU GUYS-- PILE ON HIM!

NOTHING HUMAN CAN BEAT ALL OF US!

I JUST KNEW WE MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE!

HULK IS NOT HUMAN, LITTLE MEN!

HULK IS HULK!!

LOOK AT THAT BIG GUY'S SIZE-- HIS POWER!

NO MATTER HOW MANY LITTLE MEN HULK TOSSES ASIDE--

--MORE AND MORE KEEP COMING!

BILLY IS JUST GONNA LOVE HIM!

BUT HULK WILL NOT SURRENDER!

HULK WILL JUST KEEP SMASHING AND SMASHING...

...UNTIL, AT LAST, HULK HAS...

...WON?

PUNY HUMANS ARE ALL BEATEN? IS THE BATTLE FINALLY OVER?

WELL... NOT QUITE.

HURRY--BEFORE THAT BIG BRUISER NOTICES US!

FIRE THOSE BLASTED GRENADES!!

VROOSH!

CONSIDER THEM GONE, SARGE!

HUH?

LITTLE MEN ARE STILL FIRING BOMBS AT HULK!

WHOOM!

NO-- NOT BOMBS!

GAS!!

PUNY HUMANS TRY TO PUT HULK TO SLEEP...

...SO THEY CAN CAPTURE HULK... SO THEY CAN PUT HULK IN CAGE!!

THOOM

NEVER! HULK HATES CAGES!

HULK MUST BE FREE!!

PROPELLED BY THE MOST POWERFUL **LEG MUSCLES** THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN, THE EMERALD BEHEMOTH SOARS **SKY-WARD**, LIKE SOME GREAT SAVAGE **BIRD OF PREY**...

WH-WHAT IS ***WRONG*** WITH HULK ?

HEAD ***HURTS*** SO BAD... CAN'T ***SEE***... CAN'T ***THINK*** !

BUT, HIS MASSIVE LUNGS SAVAGELY **STRICKEN** BY THE ARMY'S NOXIOUS FUMES, THE MAN-BRUTE **FALTERS** AT THE VERY **APEX** OF HIS LEAP--

--THEN, LIKE THE CHILD **ICARUS** FLOWN FAR TOO NEAR THE **SUN**, PLUNGES HELPLESSLY BACK TO **EARTH** !

THERE IS NO REAL NOTE OF **TRIUMPH** IN THE JADE-HUED GIANT'S DEFEAT...

KA-BOOM

...ONLY THE DEVASTATING SOUND OF SUDDEN **IMPACT**--AND A WIND-BLOWN SIGH OF **REMORSE**!

MORE THAN HALF A MILE **AWAY**, THE REVIVING **SOLDIERS** START OUT TO RECOVER THEIR FALLEN **FOE**--

--BUT, REMARKABLY, TWO FAR **SMALLER** FIGURES ARRIVE THERE LONG **BEFORE** THEM !

QUICK, MARIE--YOU'D BETTER GO FETCH **BILLY** BEFORE ALL THOSE **SOLDIERS** GET HERE !

BUT THERE IS NO ***NEED*** TO, DONNY...

...**BILLY** IS ALREADY ***HERE*** !

AND WHEN THE WARY TROOPERS REACH THE MAN-BRUTE'S POINT OF IMPACT MOMENTS LATER...

I--I DON'T GET IT! THERE ISN'T A TRACE OF HIM!

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THERE'S NO WAY THAT HALF-TON HULK COULD SIMPLY DISAPPEAR!

FAN OUT! SCOUR THE AREA! I WANT ANSWERS-- AND I WANT 'EM NOW!!

AND, IN LESS THAN A MINUTE...

LIEUTENANT JASON? I-I THINK I'VE FOUND SOMETHING, SIR!

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!

TRACKS OF SOME SORT... SOMETHING LARGE... WITH ONLY TWO TOES... DRAGGING SOMETHING HEAVY AWAY...

...AND THESE OTHER TRACKS... I COULD SWEAR THEY'RE THE TRACKS OF TWO KIDS...!

TROUBLE IS, THOSE TRACKS GET TOTALLY LOST ON THAT ROCKY GROUND UP AHEAD--

--AND THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN FOLLOW THEM!

I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT THIS WAS ALL ABOUT, SOLDIER--

--BUT WHEREVER THE HULK MAY BE, I THINK HE'S SOMEONE ELSE'S PROBLEM NOW!

MILES AWAY, DEEP IN THE ADIRONDACK MOUNTAINS, A SMALL, RAMSHACKLE CABIN STANDS PRESSED AGAINST THE GAPING MOUTH OF A LONG-FORGOTTEN CAVERN, AS IF CLINGING FOR SUPPORT.

OUTSIDE THE CAVE, NOTHING STIRS, THE AIR IS STILL AND SILENT.

BUT INSIDE... WELL, WHY DON'T WE ALL SEE FOR OURSELVES?

DONNY, HE... HE'S WAKING UP!

UUNNHH...

NO! GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THE PLANES BEFORE... HUH? IT--IT WAS ONLY A DREAM!

BUT WHERE AM I? WH-WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME THIS TIME?

THAT'S WHAT WE'D LIKE TO KNOW!

WHEN WE BROUGHT YOU IN HERE, YOU WERE BIG AN' GREEN AN'... AN' NOW YOU'RE JUST A SKINNY LITTLE GUY!

BOY, BROTHER BILLY IS SURE GONNA BE MAD ABOUT THIS!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? M-MY HEAD FEELS SO LOUSY... CAN'T EVEN THINK STRAIGHT...

THAT'S BECAUSE THE ARMY GASSED YOU!

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

WE WERE THERE!

YOU WERE WHAT? B-BUT YOU'RE JUST A COUPLE OF KIDS!

KIDS ARE PEOPLE TOO, YOU KNOW.

THEN I SUPPOSE IT'S TIME WE INTRODUCED OURSELVES... PEOPLE. MY NAME IS BRUCE.

WHAT ARE YOUR NAMES? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

MY NAME IS MARIE.

AND MINE IS DONNY. WE BOTH LIVE HERE... WITH OUR LITTLE BROTHER.

AND YOU CARRIED ME TO THIS CAVE... JUST THE TWO OF YOU!

MUST'VE BEEN PRETTY HARD WORK... CONSIDERING THE HULK WEIGHS ABOUT A THOUSAND POUNDS!

OH.

WELL--er-- ACTUALLY, WE JUST **HELPED.**

IT WAS **BILLY** WHO **REALLY** BROUGHT YOU HERE.

BILLY IS AWFULLY **STRONG**... FOR A **BROTHER**, THAT IS.

HE SOUNDS LIKE SOMEBODY I OUGHT TO **MEET.**

WELL, THAT MIGHT BE HARD TO **DO.** BILLY IS KINDA **SHY,** Y'SEE.

HE DOESN'T USUALLY **LIKE** COMPANY... UNTIL HE GETS TO **KNOW** THEM!

I SEE...

WELL, ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN'T **COAX** HIM OUT? AFTER ALL, I'M NOT GOING TO **HURT** HIM.

I JUST WANT TO **THANK** HIM FOR SAVING MY...

...GOD.

RUN, KIDS-- GET **OUT** OF HERE!!

TH-THERE'S A **MONSTER** IN THE **SHADOWS!**

NAH...

THAT WAS NO **MONSTER,** MISTER BRUCE. THAT WAS JUST **BILLY!**

WE **TOLD** YOU HE WAS **SHY.**

S-SO YOU **DID...**

...BUT IT APPEARS THERE WAS A WHOLE LOT YOU **DIDN'T** TELL ME!

LIKE THIS **COT** I WAS LYING ON--IT BELONGS TO **BILLY,** DOESN'T IT?

AND WHAT ABOUT... **SWEET MOTHER OF MERCY!!**

DON'T TELL ME **THAT** BELONGS TO BILLY, **TOO!?!**

A HUGE CAULDRON--A COOKING POT--STANDING ALMOST HIDDEN IN THE CORNER OF THE CAVERN, WITH BONES PILED HIGH ALL AROUND IT!

AND I COULD ALMOST SWEAR THAT SOME OF THOSE BONES ARE... ARE...

GOOD LORD!

UH-UH! NO BUTS! I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING, KIDS--I MEAN IT!!

KIDS, I THINK IT'S TIME YOU TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOUR LITTLE BROTHER BILLY!

BUT...

YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME THE WHOLE SORRY STORY--EVERY SINGLE DETAIL--RIGHT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!

IF YOU INSIST, BRUCE... BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'RE GONNA LIKE IT!

"Y'SEE, WHEN WE WERE LITTLE, WE ALL USED TO LIVE ON A GREAT BIG FARM, FULL OF COWS AN' PIGS AN' CHICKENS AN' STUFF...

"I LIKED THE CHICKENS BEST!"

"OUR MOMMY AND DADDY WERE GOOD TO US THREE KIDS. I REMEMBER DADDY ALWAYS SMELLED OF PIPE TOBACCO... AND MOMMY HAD HAIR THAT GLITTERED LIKE IT WAS GOLD.

"LIFE WAS REALLY FUN... UNTIL THE ACCIDENT!"

"WE WERE ON A BIG **PICNIC** WITH MOMMY AND DADDY, WHEN BILLY CRAWLED OFF -- AN' **DRANK** SOME STUFF THAT WAS LEAKIN' OUTTA THIS **CAN!**

"AN **AMBULANCE** CAME AN' TOOK BILLY TO THE **HOSPITAL** REAL QUICK...

"...BUT MOMMY AND DADDY JUST STOOD THERE **LOOKIN'**, AS THESE GUYS IN FUNNY SUITS CAREFULLY PICKED UP THE CAN--LIKE THEY WAS AFRAID TO **TOUCH** IT!

"FOR WEEKS, WE TRIED TO GET INTO THE HOSPITAL TO **SEE** BILLY, BUT **COULDN'T!** WE ALREADY **KNEW** THEY WOULDN'T LET **KIDS** INTO THE HOSPITAL.

"BUT WHAT WE **COULDN'T** FIGURE OUT WAS WHY THEY WOULDN'T LET **MOMMY** OR **DADDY** IN **EITHER!**

"FINALLY, DADDY WENT TO **SEE THE ARMY...**"

WE'RE SORRY, SIR. WE WERE ATTEMPTING TO **LOCATE** THAT CONTAINER OF **RADIOACTIVE WASTE** WHEN YOUR SON STUMBLED UPON IT!

BUT HOW **IS** BILLY?

IS MY SON GOING TO BE **WELL** AGAIN?

WE DID OUR **BEST**, SIR--BUT THERE WAS PERMANENT **DAMAGE!** I'M AFRAID YOUR SON WILL NEVER BE--AH--**NORMAL** AGAIN!

NO... NO...

"WE WERE ALL **WAITING** FOR BILLY WHEN THEY BROUGHT HIM BACK FROM THE **HOSPITAL.**

"MOMMY KEPT **CLINGING** TO DADDY LIKE SHE WAS **AFRAID** OR SOMETHING--BUT I FIGURED SHE WAS PROB'LY JUST **COLD.**

"THE AMBULANCE DRIVERS MUST'VE BEEN COLD, **TOO**--'CAUSE THEY KEPT **SHAKIN'** EVERY TIME THEY **LOOKED** AT BILLY.

"I GUESS HE JUST WASN'T THE SAME **BILLY** THAT HE'D BEEN **BEFORE!**

"MOMMY AND DADDY TRIED TO PRETEND THINGS WERE THE **SAME** AFTER THAT--BUT WE **KNEW** BETTER.

"SOMETIMES, MOMMY WOULD **LOOK** AT BILLY--THEN SHE'D RUN UP TO HER ROOM AN' **CRY** TILL SHE FELL **ASLEEP.**

"DADDY TRIED TO KEEP THE FARM RUNNIN'--DOIN' THE **CHORES** AN'ALL--BUT WE KNEW HE DIDN'T REALLY **CARE** ANY MORE!

"THEN, ONE MORNING, IT ALL STARTED TO COME **APART!**

OH... MY... GOD!

"DADDY FOUND ESMERALDA, OUR COW, LYIN' OUT IN THE FIELD...

"...AND HALF OF HER WAS MISSING!

"EVERYBODY FIGURED SOME KIND'A ANIMAL HAD KILLED HER, SO THEY PUT UP THESE BIG BARBED WIRE FENCES...

"...AN' THEN MRS. TOYNBEE'S PRIZE BULL ENDED UP JUST LIKE ESMERALDA...

"...SO THEY SET THESE NASTY BEAR-TRAPS AN' SUCH ALL OVER THE PLACE...

"...BUT THINGS JUST KEPT RIGHT ON DYING!

"ABOUT THE THIRD WEEK, THEY DISCOVERED THE REMAINS OF SOME NAMELESS DRIFTER WAY OUT BACK BEHIND OUR HOUSE --

"--AN' THAT'S WHEN PEOPLE STARTED LEAVIN' TOWN!

"DADDY WAS MORE UPSET THAN ANYBODY 'BOUT THE DEAD MAN, EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T REALLY KNOW THE GUY...

"...AN' THAT EVENING, WHEN HE THOUGHT WE WAS ALL ASLEEP, HE SNUCK OUT INTO THE BARN--

"--AN' FOUND BILLY PLAYIN' WITH WHAT WAS LEFT OF OUR DOG DAISY!

"DADDY AN' MOMMY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO AFTER THAT. THEY STAYED UP REAL LATE THAT NIGHT TALKIN' 'BOUT STUFF...

"...AN' LATER ON, WE WAS WOKEN UP BY THE SOUND OF SOMEBODY SCREAMING!

"BUT THE SCREAMING DIDN'T LAST VERY LONG, SO WE WENT BACK TO SLEEP!

"NEXT MORNING, WE COULDN'T FIND MOMMY AND DADDY ANYWHERE! BILLY SAID THEY'D GONE AWAY--AN' WOULDN'T BE COMIN' BACK ANY MORE!

"THEN BILLY SAID THAT SINCE HE WAS THE BIGGEST NOW, HE WAS GONNA TAKE CARE OF US FROM THEN ON--AN' THE WAY BILLY WAS SMILIN', WE KNEW HE WAS TELLIN' THE TRUTH!

"WHEN THE SHERIFF CAME BY THAT NIGHT, WE PLAYED HIDE-'N'-SEEK WITH HIM--AN' HE COULDN'T FIND US.

"THE NEXT MORNIN', BILLY TOLD US WE'D HAVE TO LEAVE HOME FOR GOOD!

"NOW WE LIVE IN THIS CAVE, AN' BILLY FINDS FOOD FOR US TO EAT--AN' WE FIND FRIENDS FOR BILLY TO PLAY WITH AT NIGHT WHEN WE'RE ASLEEP!

"AN'... AN' I GUESS THAT'S JUST ABOUT ALL THERE IS TO TELL, BRUCE."

SWEET... MOTHER... OF... MERCY...

DON'T YOU KIDS HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? THAT RADIOACTIVE WASTE CHANGED YOUR BROTHER SOMEHOW--IT TURNED HIM INTO A...

BONG!

UH-OH. THERE'S THE GONG! TIME FOR US TO GO TO BED NOW.

G'BYE, BRUCE. YOU'RE THE NICEST ONE WE'VE EVER MET.

KIDS--WAIT! COME BACK! DON'T LEAVE ME HERE...

...ALONE.

BUT I WON'T BE ALONE FOR LONG, WILL I?

BILLY IS IN HERE WITH ME, LURKING SOMEWHERE IN THE SHADOWS!

I CAN FEEL HIS EYES ON ME, WATCHING... WAITING!

I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE! I DON'T WANT TO BE THE NEXT VICTIM OF BILLY'S BIZARRE TASTE FOR...

EH?

THAT SHUFFLING SOUND--!

THOSE EYES-- GLOWERING AT ME FROM THE DARK-NESS! THAT TERRIBLE HEAVY BREATHING--!

BILLY IS... HERE!

AND THERE IS NOWHERE LEFT FOR ME TO RUN!

HIS BACK PRESSED DES-PERATELY AGAINST THE CAVERN'S ROCKY WALL, ROBERT BRUCE BANNER STARES IN ABJECT HOR-ROR AT THE MONSTROUS FIGURE THAT SHAMBLES HUNGRILY TOWARDS HIM.

WH-WHAT DO I DO NOW?

A COLD SWEAT BREAKS OUT IN HEAVY BEADS ACROSS BANNER'S FOREHEAD...

...AND HIS HEART BEGINS TO BEAT LIKE A RUNAWAY TRIPHAMMER, HIS PULSE RACING WILDLY...

...UNTIL THE UNIQUE BIOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION HE HAS LONG SINCE GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO BEGINS TO AFFECT THE FRAIL PHYSICIST'S BODY ONCE MORE...

...AND THE CREATURE CALLED BILLY SUDDENLY FINDS HE ISN'T THE ONLY MONSTER WHO PROWLS THESE HILLS, THIS NIGHT!

AARRNH!

BAH! MAYBE BIG MONSTER COULD FRIGHTEN PUNY BANNER--

--BUT HULK IS AFRAID OF NOTHING!

WHAM!

NOTHING!

HUH? MONSTER STILL STANDS!?!

THROOM!

UUNNGGHH!!

AND MONSTER DOES NOT LIKE TO HAVE HULK HIT HIM!

POW

HUHNN! MONSTER IS STRONGER THAN HULK THOUGHT...

...BUT MONSTER IS STILL NO MATCH FOR HULK!!

GRRARHH

LIKE SOME GREAT EMERALD JUGGERNAUT, THE FURIOUS HULK TACKLES HIS OVER-SIZED OPPONENT--

SKRA-KOOM!

--AND SENDS THE TWO OF THEM CRASHING SAVAGELY THRU THE MILDEWED CAVERN WALL--

--WHICH PERTURBS THE MONSTROUS BILLY NOT AT ALL!

UUNNHH!

SKROOM

MONSTER TRIES TO CHOKE HULK--TRIES TO STRANGLE HULK--!

AND, MONSTER, THAT MAKES HULK MAD!!

IT IS REALLY MOST IRONIC IN A WAY, THIS CAVERN-SHAKING BATTLE BETWEEN THE EMERALD GOLIATH AND THE BLUDGEONING BILLY...
...FOR ONE OF THESE COMBATANTS IS A MIS-SHAPEN MAN WITH THE INTELLECT OF A CHILD.. WHILE THE OTHER IS AN AFFLICTED CHILD WITH THE MONSTROUSLY-DEFORMED BODY OF A MAN!
THE HULK IS NOT REALLY CERTAIN WHY HE BATTLES BILLY, SAVE THAT THIS SHADOWY CREATURE HAS SOMEHOW THREATENED HIM--AND, FOR THE HULK, THAT IS MORE THAN REASON ENOUGH!
BUT BILLY, IN TURN, KNOWS PRECISELY WHY HE IS FIGHTING, FOR THERE IS AN ALL-CONSUMING HUNGER BURNING DEEP WITHIN HIM--A FIRE THAT MUST BE QUENCHED!

POW!!

WHAT DOES MONSTER *WANT* WITH HULK ?

HULK DOES NOT *KNOW*! HULK *NEVER* KNOWS!

ALL HULK *DOES* KNOW IS THAT MONSTER HAS TRIED TO *KILL* HULK-- AND FOR *THAT*, HULK WILL...

SPAK!

HUH ?

RRARRGHH ??

FIGHT WITH MONSTER HAS *CRACKED* CAVE WALLS AND *ROOF*! PIECES OF CAVE ARE BREAKING *LOOSE*... *FALLING*...!

MUST GET *OUT* OF HERE... BEFORE CAVE ROOF...

...COLLAPSES!!

SKRA-PA-KROOM!!

AARRGGHH !!

WHILE, OUTSIDE THE CRUMBLING CAVERN, TWO CHILDREN WHO HAD BEEN **AWAKENED** BY THE SAVAGE SOUNDS OF COMBAT **STAND,** AND WITNESS THE **END** OF THE LIFE THEY HAVE KNOWN...

DONNY, WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO *HELP*--!

THERE'S NOTHING *WE* CAN *DO,* MARIE!

BILLY IS STILL *INSIDE* THERE!

BESIDES, BILLY CAN TAKE CARE OF *HIMSELF!*

HE'S GONNA DIG HIMSELF *OUTTA* THAT MESS! JUST YOU WAIT AN' *SEE!*

DONNY, *LISTEN*-- THAT *RUMBLING* SOUND--!

IT'S *BILLY!* IT *HAS* TO BE! HE'S...

AT LAST-- *HULK* IS FREE!!

THA ROK!

BUT WHERE'S OUR LITTLE BROTHER *BILLY?* WHY ISN'T HE *WITH* YOU?

ONLY *HULK* WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO *SMASH* THRU WALL OF ROCK!

HULK IS THE *STRONGEST ONE THERE IS!!*

BUT *BILLY* IS STRONG *TOO,* HULK! HE...

BAH! HULK TELLS YOU THERE WAS NO *BILLY* IN CAVE, LITTLE GIRL...

...ONLY UGLY *MONSTER!*

MONSTER TRIED TO *HURT* HULK...

...AND NOW MONSTER IS GONE *FOREVER!*

IF *BILLY* WAS IN CAVE, THEN *BILLY* IS GONE *FOREVER TOO!*

BUT HULK THINKS THE ONE CALLED *BILLY* MUST HAVE BEEN *LOST* A LONG, LONG *TIME* AGO!

A *VERY* LONG TIME AGO!

NEXT ISSUE:
THE CURING OF DOCTOR BANNER!

The Incredible Hulk Annual #6, page 27 original art
by Herb Trimpe, Frank Giacoia & Mike Esposito

SHOCK WAVES HAMMER OFF THE CURVES OF THE DOME. THE ENTIRE CONSTRUCTION SEEMS TO RIPPLE AND SHIFT, JAGGED CRACKS SNAKING OUT IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

THEN THERE IS A SINGLE FROZEN MOMENT OF SILENCE...

...FOLLOWED BY A ROAR LIKE THE END OF THE WORLD!

HAH! THEY THOUGHT HULK WOULD COME THIS FAR AND BE STOPPED BY PUNY DOME...

...BUT THEY WERE WRONG!!

WHROOO

WHROO

THE INTRUDER ALARM!!

MORLAK-- THAT ALARM ONLY SOUNDS IF THE DOME IS SHATTERED!

BUT WHO COULD--?

WE MUST BE UNDER SEIGE BY SOME GOVERNMENTAL FORCE!

ONLY A POWERFUL WARHEAD COULD HAVE SHATTERED THAT DOME!

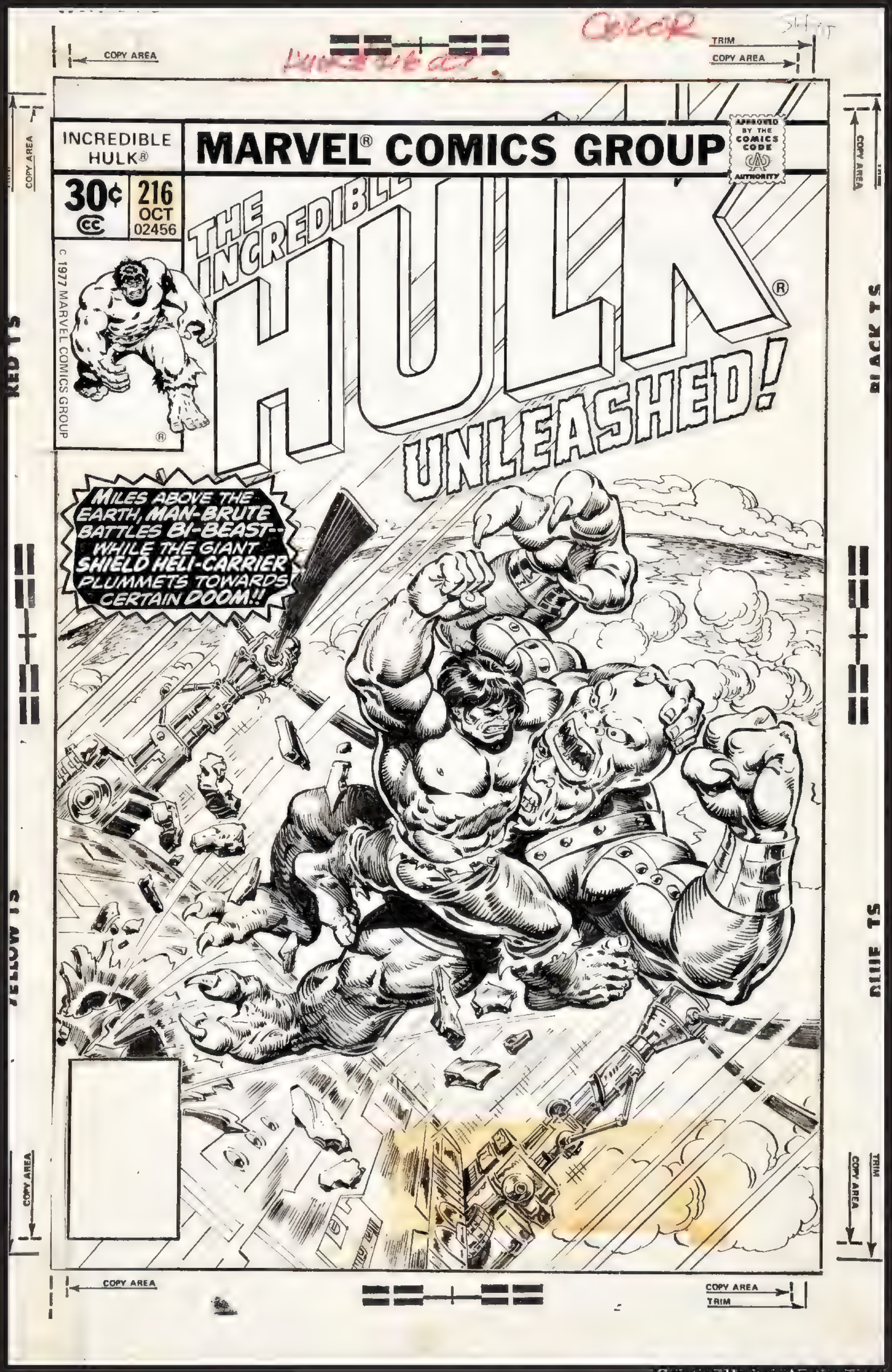
CLOSE, FRIEND-- BUT NO CIGAR!

WHERE IS MAGICIAN!

HULK WILL SMASH EVERYTHING-- UNTIL HULK FINDS HIM!

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

The Incredible Hulk #216 cover original art
by Rich Buckler & Ernie Chan



Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

The Incredible Hulk #219, page 8 original art
by Sal Buscema & Ernie Chan

Book INCREDIBLE HULK Issue# 219 pg.# 14

ALMOST DESPITE HIMSELF, THE EMOTIONALLY-EXHAUSTED ROBERT BRUCE BANNER SURRENDERS TO HIS PANIC, LOSING THE ALL-IMPORTANT SELF-CONTROL HE HAS STRUGGLED SO DESPERATELY TO MAINTAIN! HIS BLOOD PRESSURE SOARS--HIS PULSE RATE, RESPIRATION, AND A DOZEN OTHER VITAL SIGNS ARE ALL PUSHED TO INCREDIBLE PEAKS, REACTING WITH THE LATENT GAMMA RADIATION IN HIS BODY...

...AND TRIGGERING THE MOST AWESOME TRANSFORMATION OF ALL!!

BAH! AGAIN LITTLE MEN THREATEN HULK WITH PUNY GUNS!

LEAVE HULK ALONE, PUNY HUMANS--OR HULK WILL SMASH!!

CAP'N SIR--I THINK WE'VE GOT TROUBLE!

THEN FORGET THE OTHERS, ME BUCKOS--

--AN' CONCENTRATE YER FIRE ON YON GREEN BEASTIE!

YOU HEARD HIM, GUYS--BLAST AWAY! HE'S GOTTA HAVE A WEAK SPOT SOMEWHERE!

SPOW!

SPOW!

WEAK SPOT?

SPWEEE

SPAK!

SPANG!

FOOLISH LITTLE MEN, HULK HAS NO WEAK SPOT!

"HULK IS THE STRONGEST ONE THERE IS!!

BWA-

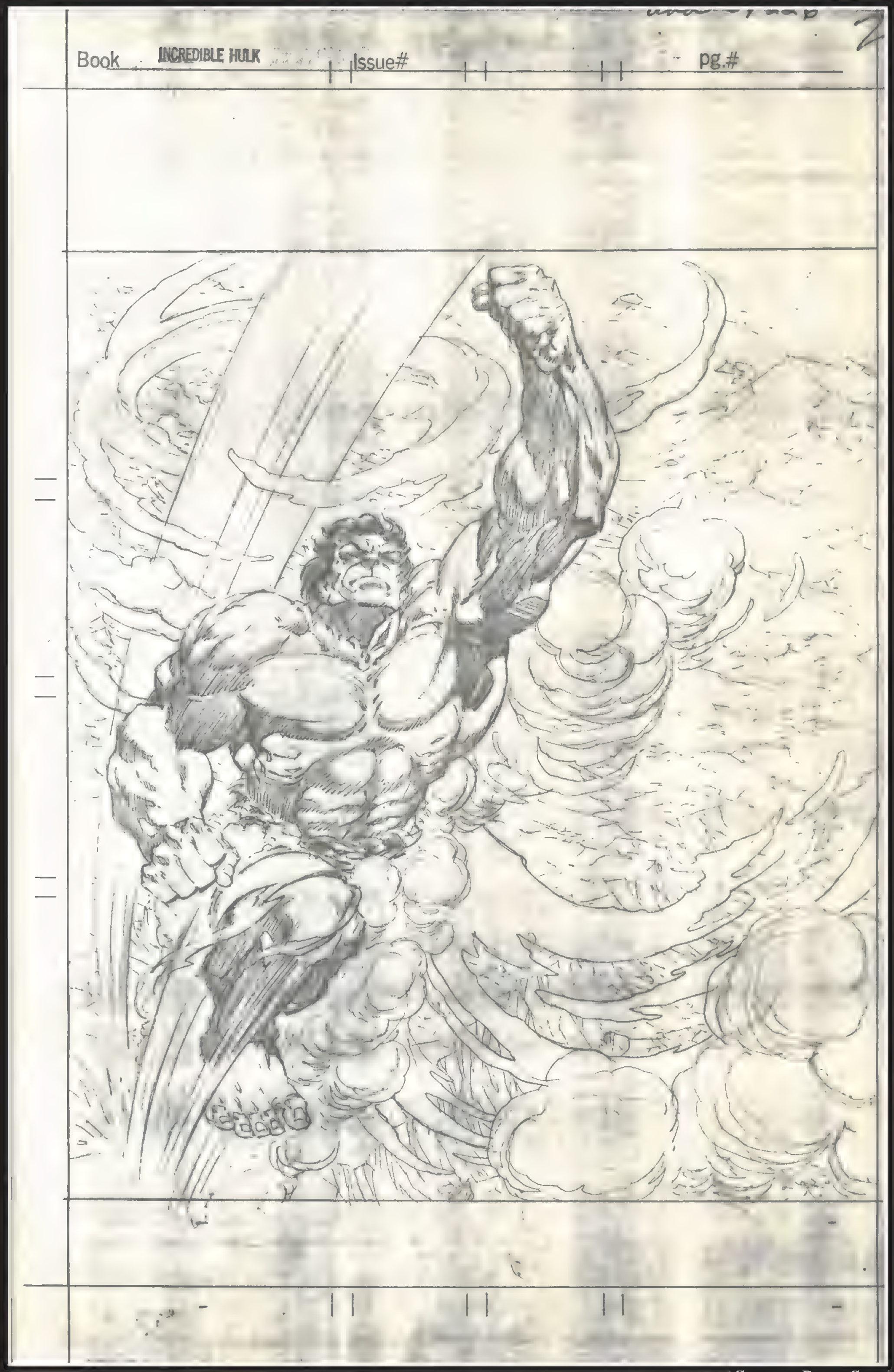
DOOM

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

The Incredible Hulk #222, page 14 original art
by Jim Starlin & Alfredo Alcala

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

In 1977, Swamp Thing co-creators Len Wein and Bernie Wrightson began work on a story for *The Incredible Hulk*. Wrightson penciled five stunning pages, but the issue was never completed.



Courtesy Roger Stern

The Incredible Hulk, page 2 pencil art
by Bernie Wrightson

Courtesy Roger Stern

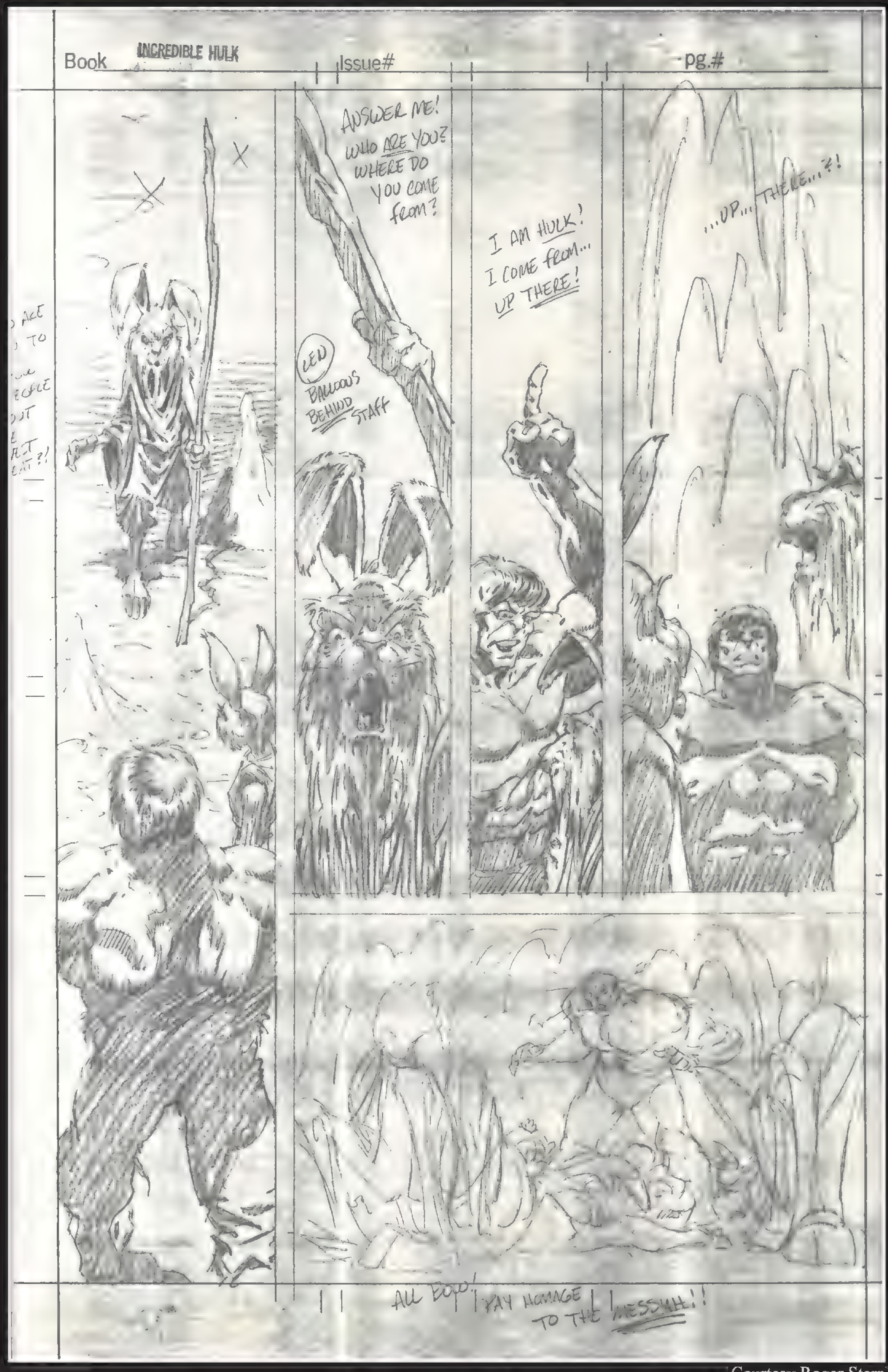
The Incredible Hulk, page 3 pencil art
by Bernie Wrightson

Courtesy Roger Stern

The Incredible Hulk, page 4 pencil art
by Bernie Wrightson

Courtesy Roger Stern

The Incredible Hulk, page 5 pencil art
by Bernie Wrightson



Courtesy Roger Stern

F.O.O.M. #19 (Fall 1977) included this panoramic portrait of the Hulk battling the Army's Hulkbuster forces by iconic artist and airplane aficionado Herb Trimpe.

A pulse-pounding panorama of the mint-colored monster presented by Happy HERB TRIMPE.

BIOGRAPHIES

LEN WEIN

Len Wein's career is highlighted by successes from Swamp Thing to the "All-New, All-Different" X-Men, but few fans know that the award-winning writer and editor started out as a comic-book artist.

As a teenager, Wein was tied to the hip with fellow fanzine writer Marv Wolfman, regularly skipping school to tour the DC Comics offices. After building a rapport with artists and execs like Dick Giordano, Carmine Infantino and Joe Orlando, Wein was able to credibly pitch to the editors. Though his artwork was politely passed upon, a script for *House of Mystery* was accepted and a career as a writer was born. Len attacked his new occupation with gusto, writing for DC, Marvel, Gold Key and Skywald, on everything from Western to horror, and licensed properties from Hot Wheels to Star Trek.

Although his desired career as an artist didn't quite pan out, it did give Wein insight into his collaborator's creative process and helped him garner acclaim as a writer that was "easy to draw." After super-hero work in the early '70s (Daredevil, Superman, Flash), he and artist Bernie Wrightson launched horror mainstay Swamp Thing in the pages of *House of Secrets* #92. Other notable achievements from his tenure at DC include a run on *Justice League of America* and the debut of the Human Target.

Hopping over to Marvel in 1974, where he followed Roy Thomas as editor in chief, Wein scripted several series, including *Incredible Hulk*, where he and artist Herb Trimpe introduced one of comics' most famous characters—Wolverine. That wasn't the end of his mutant milestones, as with artist Dave Cockrum he revived the dormant X-Men property with a new international cast. Its cadre of characters, including Storm, Nightcrawler and Colossus would shortly turn into comics' biggest phenomenon.

Returning to DC, Wein helped spur a creative revival at the company, editing *New Teen Titans*, *Camelot 3000* and *Swamp Thing*, which gave writer Alan Moore his American debut; shortly thereafter, Wein would preside over Moore and Dave Gibbon's groundbreaking *Watchmen*. Since then, Wein's credits in comics, animation and television writing have been numerous and well received. He was inducted into the Eisner Hall of Fame in 2008 and passed away in 2017, leaving behind a creative legacy celebrated worldwide.

SAL BUSCEMA

Without a doubt one of comics' most prolific artists, "Our Pal" Sal Buscema joined Marvel in 1968 shortly after his elder brother, John. Tackling inking duties on *Silver Surfer* and *Fantastic Four*, including the all-time classic *Silver Surfer* #4, Buscema quickly graduated to penciling. He was an anchor of the Marvel line in the 1970s with long runs on books like *Captain America*, *Marvel Team-Up* and *The Spectacular Spider-Man* and a 100-plus issue run on *The Incredible Hulk*. Buscema was also behind defining the tone on early issues of *The Defenders*, *Rom* and *The New Mutants*. His career as one of Marvel's most versatile artists lasted throughout the '70s and into the '90s. In 1988, he returned to *The Spectacular Spider-Man* and over the next ten years penciled every issue but two from #134 through #238 (and inked the vast majority as well!) Although he retired in the late '90s, readers can still see his name on comics credits from time to time, including inking work on the cult hit *Spider-Girl*.

DAVID ANTHONY KRAFT

David Anthony Kraft has made his mark in comics as a writer, editor, publisher and industry journalist. He broke into comics at the age of 18, and by 1974 had launched his own science fiction/fantasy publishing company, Fictioneer, and made inroads as a rock music critic.

Kraft's tenure at Marvel also began in 1974; his early years were spent as an associate editor working with Don McGregor and Roy Thomas on the company's color comics and later the black-and-white magazines, including *The Deadly Hands of Kung Fu* and *Rampaging Hulk*. Meanwhile, he scored writing credits with stories in *Tales of the Zombie* and *Haunt of Horror*. He also wrote a pair of stories in *Giant-Size Dracula* and notched a five-issue run writing Man-Wolf in *Creatures on the Loose*. At Atlas/Seaboard Comics, he worked as an assistant editor and writer before starting to write for DC in 1976 with work on *Secret Society of Super-Villains*, *Blackhawk* and *Kamandi*. By the following year, Kraft was back at Marvel and fully entrenched for a six-year run. On top of editing the Marvel fan magazine *F.O.O.M.*, Kraft took over writing duties on *Logan's Run* and *The Defenders*, where he would start a 24-issue run as writer. Kraft also got to wield his passion for rock music on a pair of stories in the tabloid-sized *Marvel Comics Super Special* magazine—a Beatles biography and an adaptation of the Bee Gees film *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*—both also drawn by frequent art collaborator George Pérez.

In 1980, Kraft took the reins of *Savage She-Hulk* after its first Stan Lee-scripted issue and would write the series to its finale two years later. Kraft wound up his 1980s tenure with Marvel writing *Captain America* and *Marvel Two-In-One*, an adaptation of *The Dark Crystal* and various children's titles for Marvel Books. After a 13-issue stint writing *World's Finest Comics* for DC, Kraft focused primarily on his own publishing pursuits, most prominently *Comics Interview* magazine, a long-running and popular insider account of the comic book industry, as well as a line of comics that included the first work by Brian Stelfreeze and other talents. Kraft has also worked as a story editor for TV, including credits on *G.I. Joe Extreme* and *Street Fighter*, and continues to bring his creative acumen to the comic book field today, including writing for the revitalized *Tales from the Crypt* and editing, co-writing and laying out the graphic novel *Yi Soon Shin*.

KEITH POLLARD

One of its most high-profile artists in the late '70s and early '80s, Keith Pollard's tenure at Marvel was notable for his sleek, refined renderings of the company's most iconic characters. He broke in at Marvel in 1974, drawing such characters as Deathlok in *Astonishing Tales*, Shang-Chi in *Master of Kung Fu*, and the super-hero action of *Black Goliath*, *Ms. Marvel*, and Black Panther in *Jungle Action*. After a stint on the black-and-white *Rampaging Hulk* magazine, Pollard was ushered into the starting lineup of creators on three of Marvel's flagship titles.

Starting in 1978, Pollard provided breakdown art on *Fantastic Four* for the legendary Joe Sinnott to finish. Soon after landing his *FF* gig, he began penciling *The Amazing Spider-Man* and then took the reins from "Big" John Buscema on *Thor*, starting a run that would encompass the epic "Eternals Saga" storyline. All in all, Pollard's hand guided the visuals of these three prime Marvel titles simultaneously, and his tenures on each book are memorable additions to each title's legacy.

In the early '80s, Pollard took on a new stable of heroes at DC, drawing several issues of *Green Lantern* and launching *The Vigilante* with writer Marv Wolfman. He returned to regular series work at Marvel in 1989, once again drawing *Fantastic Four*. By 1995, Pollard retired from comics, although he is currently appearing at conventions and doing commissioned art.

JIM STARLIN

When Jim Starlin came along in the early '70s, super-hero comics were populated primarily by earthbound heroes, but this young writer/artist revolutionized "cosmic" comics, a genre full of space-opera drama and high-minded philosophizing that required the expansive reaches of the universe to fully flourish.

Inspired as a young man by Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko, in 1972 Starlin followed fellow Detroiter Rich Buckler to Marvel. After assisting John Romita on Spider-Man and drawing covers, Starlin spun a short stint on *Iron Man*—where he introduced Thanos and Drax the Destroyer – into the beginnings of an epic *Captain Marvel* saga that would redefine the character.

In late 1973, Starlin and writer Steve Englehart launched the first kung fu comic in the pages of *Special Marvel Edition*, and later in *Shang-Chi, Master of Kung Fu*. Then, in perhaps his most ambitious work to date, Jim revived Roy Thomas and Gil Kane's Adam Warlock, taking the messianic hero to mind-bending new heights. The short run on the cosmic character is still regarded as a high point of '70s Marvel.

By the late '70s, Starlin headed over to DC, but in 1982 he returned to Marvel for the *Death of Captain Marvel* graphic novel. Inspired by Starlin's compulsion to work through the death of his father, the story is considered to be his masterpiece. Soon after, *Dreadstar*, the debut title of Marvel's Epic line, introduced fans to Starlin's wholly original cosmic concept. Writing and drawing the adventures of Vanth Dreadstar as he fought against the monolithic vestiges of church and state, Starlin guided the series throughout a long and successful run. At DC, Starlin penned the milestone "A Death in the Family" in *Batman*, which culminated in Robin's demise; *Batman: The Cult* and *The Weird* with Bernie Wrightson; and *Cosmic Odyssey* with Mike Mignola.

In the early '90s, he took over writing *Silver Surfer* for a 17-issue run that reintroduced Thanos and Adam Warlock. At the same time, he wrote the first chapters in what would be a sprawling epic that would play out over the next 15 years with *The Thanos Quest*, *The Infinity Gauntlet*, *Infinity War* and *Infinity Crusade*. In 2001, Starlin would return to Warlock and Thanos in the *Infinity Abyss* and *Thanos*.

Recent projects include *Kid Kosmos* for Dynamite, *Death of the New Gods* and *Mystery In Space* for DC and a series of *Thanos* original graphic novels for Marvel.

ROGER STERN

Born in Noblesville, Indiana, in 1950, Roger Stern was a self-professed "child of the '50s," immersing himself in pop culture icons like Lucille Ball, the Lone Ranger, and especially Superman. After graduating from Indiana University, Stern worked at Indianapolis' WXLW radio and formed a comic fan collective with fans in the region. Stern teamed with fellow Hoosier Bob Layton to transform Layton's comic sales business into the fanzine *CPL* (*Contemporary Pictorial Literature*). Their efforts led to an offer from Charlton to create the publisher's official fanzine, *Charlton Bullseye*. Soon after, Stern's fandom pal Roger Slifer contacted him with an opportunity to interview for a Marvel staff job. Stern raced to New York to put his passion for comics to the test. He was hired as an assistant editor and in 1975 embarked on an eleven-year career at Marvel. Stern's early editing duties saw him guiding the Avengers family of titles, *Master of Kung Fu*, *Spider-Woman*, and others. He also presided over *X-Men* during the seminal Chris Claremont, John Byrne, and Terry Austin run, and plotted *Marvel Premiere* #50 starring rocker Alice Cooper.

In 1978, he began to take on regular writing work on *The Incredible Hulk* and *Doctor Strange*. His compelling storytelling quickly earned him an audience and turns writing *Captain America* and Spider-Man in *The Spectacular Spider-Man*. The latter title led to his tenure on *The Amazing Spider-Man*, a run regarded by many as second only to Stan Lee's. Amongst their many Spidey highlights, Stern and artist John Romita Jr. introduced the Hobgoblin and a new Captain Marvel, Monica Rambeau. Stern also began a long stint on *The Avengers*, launched *West Coast Avengers*, and returned for another celebrated run on *Doctor Strange*.

When his tenure with Marvel came to an end in the late '80s, Stern became indelibly linked to the Man of Steel with iconic work that included "The Death of Superman." Since then "Uncle Rog," as he is known to his devoted fans, has returned to Marvel to write several series including *Avengers Forever*, *Amazing Spider-Man*, *Marvel: The Lost Generation*, *Captain America Corps*, and more.

HERB TRIMPE

He may not have dreamed up as many characters as Kirby or Ditko, or had as groundbreaking a style as Steranko or Adams—and he'll be the first one to tell you that! But Herb Trimpe is easily one of the most recognizable comic artists of all time, owing to the incredible popularity of two titles (*Incredible Hulk*, *G.I. Joe*) he made successes.

Herb joined Marvel's production department fresh out of the armed forces, where he served in the Air Force as a weatherman from 1962-1966, providing weather telemetry to forces in Vietnam. In between his office duties, he landed fill-in work as a penciler and inker on books like *Kid Colt, Outlaw* and *Marvel Super-Heroes* #16, featuring the Phantom Eagle, a collaboration with writer Gary Friedrich that played off Herb's well-known interest in drawing airplanes.

He also inked several books, most notably over Marie Severin's Hulk in *Tales to Astonish*. Several months later, Herb got the book as his own, and from 1968 to 1975, the Hulk's tales were drawn under his auspices. He combined an E.C.-influenced approach to layouts with Kirby-esque dynamics, a style that became even more pronounced when he began inking his own pencils with issue #117. Through it all, he never strayed from the elements of the character he felt had already been perfected: the pathos of a tragic figure's Jekyll/Hyde dual personality. During his tenure, he came up with the Hulkbusters, did character designs for the likes of Wendigo and Zzzax, and also drew the first appearance of Wolverine in *Incredible Hulk* #180-182.

After the Hulk, Trimpe drew *Godzilla*, *Shogun Warriors* and *The Defenders*. He also drew the first several issues of Marvel UK's *Captain Britain*. As the 1980s began, Trimpe drew a much-beloved run on *Marvel Team-Up*, but it was the launch of *G.I. Joe* that would make Trimpe's some of the most seen comic art of the decade. An instant hit, selling hundreds of thousands of copies over multiple printings, it was the start of an incredibly successful, long-running title. In addition to the early *G.I. Joe* issues, Trimpe drew its spinoff title, *G.I. Joe Special Missions*.

Another highlight in Trimpe's career was providing breakdown art in collaboration with Barry Windsor-Smith on the *Machine Man* limited series. Later in the decade, his workload scaled back to spot penciling and inking jobs. In 2002, he was awarded the Humanitarian of the Year Award at the San Diego Comic-Con for services rendered as a chaplain at Ground Zero after 9/11. In his retirement, he continued to delight fans with the occasional cover or short story. Trimpe passed away in 2015, leaving a legacy as one of Marvel's most accomplished storytellers.

GEORGE TUSKA

His first art lesson was in a hospital bed, a teenager laid low by an appendectomy with nothing to do but draw cowboys and Indians under the tutelage of a fellow patient. But a decade later, George Tuska hit the ground running as part of the famed Eisner/Iger studio, beginning his career in comics. After early success drawing strips like "Spike Marlin" and "Shark Brodie," Tuska departed from Eisner/Iger and the company of fellow artists like Lou Fine and Bob Powell to join Harry "A" Chesler's art studio, where he would draw his first pages of Captain Marvel in *Master Comics* and *Captain Marvel Adventures*.

By the age of 24, Tuska had gone back and forth between Eisner/Iger (where he drew some of Eisner's iconic *Spirit* strips) and Fawcett, and after a stint in World War II, he settled into a run with Lev Gleason on *Crime Does Not Pay* and also worked on various newspaper strips.

As the '50s concluded, he was well entrenched as artist on *Buck Rogers* dailies and Sundays, but he would return to comic books by joining Marvel in a big way in 1968. With *Iron Man* #5, he established himself as regular artist for a two-year stint, helping anchor the identity of the Armored Avenger. After a year away, he would again return to *Iron Man* many times over the rest of the '70s, drawing it along with other Marvel titles like *Hero For Hire*, *Ghost Rider* and *Black Goliath*. In addition to taking on the daily *Superman* strip in 1978, he also worked steadily with DC through the '70s on many of their books. Retiring after a long and solid career as a cartoonist in 1993, Tuska continued to draw commissions for his many fans until his 2009 death at the age of 93.

Biographies researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

THE MARVEL MASTERWORKS

THE MARVEL MASTERWORKS LIBRARY PRESENTS THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC BOOKS, PAINSTAKINGLY RESTORED FROM THE HIGHEST-QUALITY SOURCES AND WITH THE MOST DILIGENT ARCHIVAL METHODS.

THE GOLDEN AGE

As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over America, a new storytelling medium was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States. At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary creators as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee. These trailblazing talents birthed a vast array of characters that would give rise to the Marvel Universe!

GOLDEN AGE ALL-WINNERS VOLS. 1-4
GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-6
GOLDEN AGE DARING MYSTERY VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE MARVEL COMICS VOLS. 1-7
GOLDEN AGE MYSTIC COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE U.S.A. COMICS VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE YOUNG ALLIES VOLS. 1-2

THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the Golden Age retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, the Atlas Era had it all!

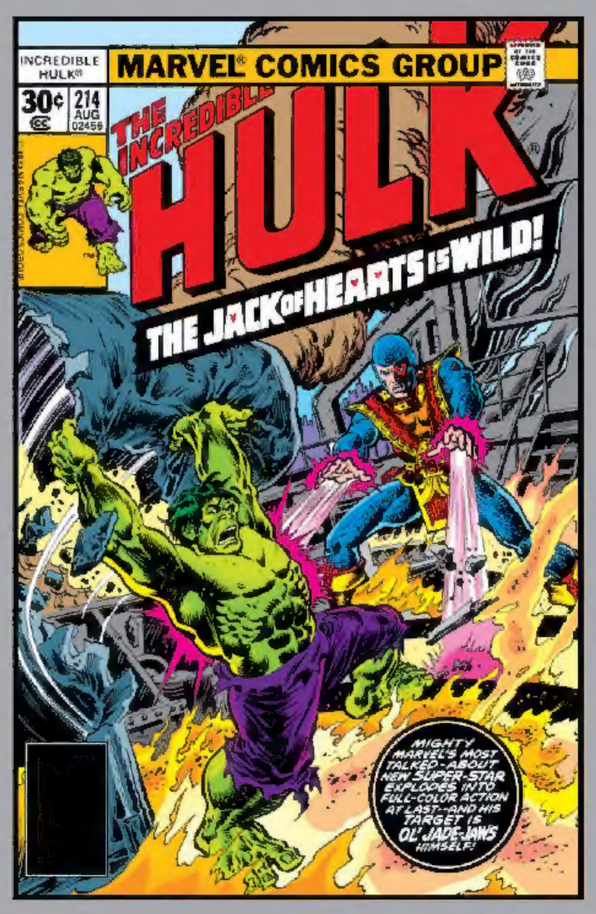
ATLAS ERA BATTLEFIELD VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA BLACK KNIGHT/YELLOW CLAW VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA HEROES VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA JUNGLE ADVENTURE VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA MENACE VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA STRANGE TALES VOLS. 1-6
ATLAS ERA TALES TO ASTONISH VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA TALES OF SUSPENSE VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA VENUS VOL. 1

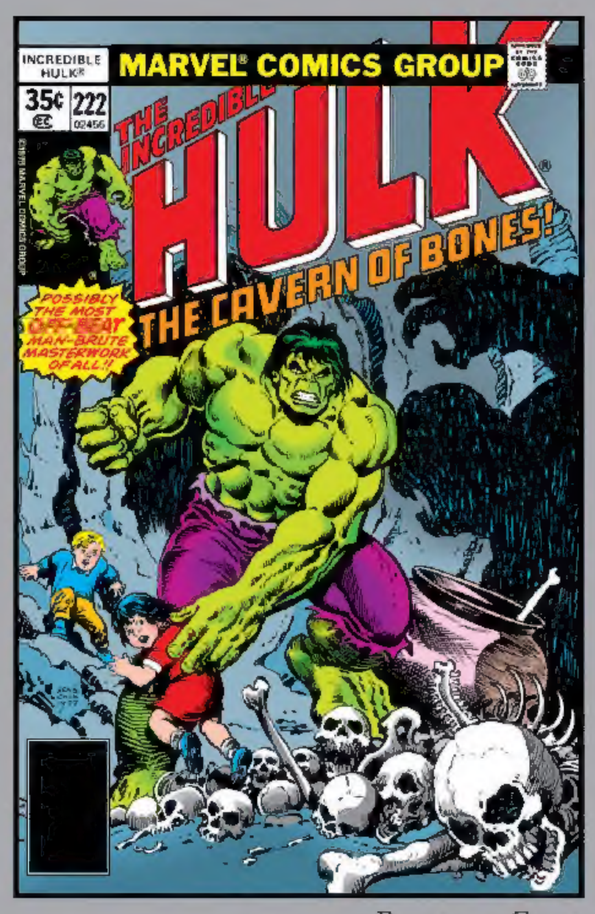
THE MARVEL AGE

In August 1961, change hit newsstands: *The Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. They were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves — and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different — the beginning of the Marvel Age of Comics!

Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN VOLS. 1-20
ANT-MAN/GIANT-MAN VOLS. 1-3
THE AVENGERS VOLS. 1-19
THE BLACK PANTHER VOLS. 1-2
CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-11
CAPTAIN MARVEL VOLS. 1-6
THE CHAMPIONS VOL. 1
DAREDEVIL VOLS. 1-13
DEATHLOK VOL. 1
THE DEFENDERS VOLS. 1-6
DOCTOR STRANGE VOLS. 1-8
THE FANTASTIC FOUR VOLS. 1-20
THE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-2
THE INCREDIBLE HULK VOLS. 1-13
THE INHUMANS VOLS. 1-2
THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN VOLS. 1-12
IRON FIST VOLS. 1-2
KA-ZAR VOLS. 1-2
KILLRAVEN VOL. 1
LUKE CAGE VOLS. 1-3
MARVEL RARITIES VOL. 1
MARVEL TEAM-UP VOLS. 1-4
MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE VOLS. 1-3
THE MIGHTY THOR VOLS. 1-17
MS. MARVEL VOLS. 1-2
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. VOLS. 1-3
NOT BRAND ECHH VOL. 1
RAWHIDE KID VOLS. 1-2
THE SAVAGE SHE-HULK VOLS. 1-2
SGT. FURY VOLS. 1-4
THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN VOLS. 1-2
SPIDER-WOMAN VOL. 1
THE SILVER SURFER VOLS. 1-2
THE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-8
WARLOCK VOLS. 1-2
THE X-MEN VOLS. 1-8
THE UNCANNY X-MEN VOLS. 1-11





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